Special Supplement in Section Two

WEDNESDAY 13 DECEMBER 1995

Doctors' fury over 'safe' drink limits

New levels condemned as 'boozers' charter

The Government gave the drinks industry a pre-Christmas boost yesterday by relaxing its advice on sensible drinking limits, bringing a storm of protest from the medical establish-

Making the announcement drink-driving campaign, seven of the UK's leading drink Stephen Dorrell, Secretary of State for Health, said there was strong evidence that one to two units of alcohol a day provides "significant health benefits" while up to four units a day for men and three for women will not accrue any significant health risk".

The new advice goes so far as to say that middle-aged or elderly tectotallers may wish to consider the benefits of "lightdrinking", and says that women at any stage of pregnancy can drink up to 4 units a week.

A spokeswoman for the World Health Organisation described the guidance as "absolutely crazy". Dr Maristella Monteiro, medical officer in the WHO's programme on substance abuse, accused the Government of "being in the pocket

of the drinks industry will today try to defend the Govemment's position at a WHO ministerial conference in Paris which aims to develop a strategy for cutting alcohol consumption in Europe by 25 per

cent by 2000. The Royal College of Physiencouraged to drink more, and there would be an increase in deaths in road accidents and

"social damage in society as a whole". Dr Sandy Macara, chairman of the British Medical Association Council, said the advice was "irresponsible and badly-timed", and the jury was

still out on any health benefits. Alcohol Concern said the advice should not be taken as

a "green light" to drink more. However, Dr John Rae, dijust one week after the launch rector of the Portman Group, of Government's Christmas a research group representing



manufacturers, welcomed the Government's "brave risk". He f the drinks industry". said: "I think it's right and in the John Bowis, health minister. long run we'll have fewer alcohol problems if you treat people like adults.

> 21 units a week for men (equates to three units a day) and 14 units a week (two units a day) for women. One unit is

a weekly figure, it represents an increase of 33 per cent.

Mr Dorrell dismissed claims

that he was issuing a boozer's charter and said that people had a right to know the latest findings. The advice is based on a study by an inter-departmental working group which considered evidence from almost 90 expert sources.

The report concludes that there is strong evidence that one or two units daily can reduce deaths from coronary heart disease in men over 40 and postmenopausal women. There is no evidence so far of a protective effect in younger drinkers.

Mr Dorrell said: "Alcohol

consumption will always be a major public health issue and it is important for the Government to present a balanced view which recognises the risks but also offers soundly based and credible advice on which people

can base their own choices."
He said the "most significant" change in the advice was the shift to a "daily benchmark" rather than a weekly amount. Situations in which people should not drink - at work, when driving, using machinery or electrical equipment - remained the same. The best level here is none," Mr Dorrell said.

Dr Kenneth Calman, chief medical officer, denied that the new "limits" undermined the advice that GPs give to pa-The previous guidance de-fined sensible drinking limits as the Royal Medical Colleges and the BMA. However, his answer to questions at a press conference did little to clarify the issue. "If you drink up to three cians said that people would be equivalent to half a pint of units a day, there is no adverse



Joy in France as pilots are released

MARY DEJEVSKY

The two French pilots missing for three months after their plane was shot down over the Bosnian Serb enclave of Pale were released yesterday after a flurry of last-minute negotiations, just two days before France hosts the signing of the Bosnian peace agreement.

The pilots, Captain Frédéric Chiffot and Lieutenant José Souvignet, were handed over to the chief of staff of the French armed forces, at a short ceremony in Zvornik on the border of Bosnia and Serbia.

beer, a small glass of wine or a pub measure of spirits. If the pub measure of spirits. If the new guidance is translated into met on the tarmac by their taken after their capture were

wives and a joyous President published in the magazine Paris Russian military attache in Bel-Jacques Chirac. The fate of the pilots had be-

come a major preoccupation of the French authorities in recent weeks: Mr Chirac last week threatened unspecified consequences if the pilots were not released, while the foreign minister, Hervé de Charette, made clear during the London con-ference at the weekend that the whole peace process could be

in danger. Yesterday the Prime Minster, Alain Juppé, said that their release had been due in large measure to the personal "involvement and tenacity" of the

Match in September, there had grade, Viktor Shipilov, attendbeen no reliable information. about their whereabouts and there was speculation that they were dead or badly injured.

Yesterday Lt Souvignet said that they had been well treated, but that they had been held release of French hostages in separately for their first six weeks in captivity. From the air base near Nancy Captain Chiffot's wife. Isabelle, said that there was a "veritable explosion of joy in the hearts of their families and at the base", when news came of their release: "it's an ex-

traordinary day."

Both Mr Chirac and the Bosnian Serb commander. Ratko Mladic, paid tribute to Russia's mediating role, and the

GTECH's public relations ad-

viser, shortly after Mr Snowden

is said to have made his offer.

According to Mr Branson and Will Whitehorn, his own PR ad-

viser, who heard the call on a

speaker phone. Sir Tim said he

understood Mr Snowden had

yesterday. On the French side the delicate negotiations were handled by a former secret service officer, Jean-Charles Marchiani, who negotiated the Lebanon and during the hijack of a French airliner at Marseilles lasi Christmas.

ed the handover ceremony

While French politicians lavished praise on Mr Chirac for obtaining the release of the pilots, questions were already being asked about the terms of possible deal.

Two weeks ago the Bosnian Serb leader, Radovan Karadzic, had said that the release of the pilots could be speeded up

the safety of Serbs remaining in Sarajevo, Yesterday, the Elysee said that there had been "no negotiations with anyone" and that France had "only put pres-There was speculation, how

ever, that Mr Karadzic and Mr. Mladic might have demanded a softening of the war crimes indictment pending against them in return for the pilots' release. And amid the widespread international rejoicing, there was bitterness among Serbs, with Bosnian Serb radio lamenting that "two pilots who bombed us" were "gloriously liberated because France requested it". Pilots' story, page 9

Branson: Sue me over bribes claim

Westminster Correspondent

Peter Davis, the Oflot regulator, came under strong political pressure last night over his alleged failure to act over Richard Branson's bribery allegations and his acceptance of free flights from a partner in the

Camelot consortium.

Mr Branson, head of the Virgin group, yesterday repeated claims that Guy Snowden, the head of OTECH, which has a 22 per cent stake in Camelot, had tried to bribe him at his home in September that the fray, when Jack Cunning the fray when Jack Cunning the

1993. He claimed Mr Davis had been told of the approach but

had chosen to ignore it.
In the face of denials by Mr Davis and Mr Snowden, Mr Branson, currently in Japan, challenged them to sue him. He said he would be writing to Mr Davis with accounts of their meeting at the offices of Oflot in May 1994, from himself and

tion" by accepting the free flights. Dr Cunningham called for a Government statement on the controversy from Virginia Bottomley, the Secretary of State for National Heritage.

Both Mr Jackson and Mr Tyrrell said yesterday their memory of the meeting tallied with Mr Branson's. Mr Tyrrell is understood to have taken a note of the conversation which took place before a formal dis-

cussion about the award of the National Lottery to Camelot in preference to Virgin. However, their account was

The Oflot head was consulting Government solicitors about suing Mr Branson. "Any suggestion Richard Branson mentioned any allegations of impropriety concerning Guy Snowden to Peter Davis is absolutely untrue," said an Oflot spokeswoman. She said no formal complaint of impropriety

would be investigated. Mr Branson was at pains to explain why he did not raise the allegations earlier, inbetween apparently telling Mr Davis and informing a team from strongly denied by Mr Davis. BBC's Panorama, which broad-

cast them on Monday. He claimed it was because nobody had raised GTECH or Mr Snowden with him before and when Panorama did he reached for the notes of his meeting in September 1993.

In fact, he did raise them, with another journalist, a short time after the Branson-Snowhad been made and if it was, it den meeting. Tim Jackson, who wrote an unauthorised biography of Mr Branson, is understood to have received a detailed account of the meeting but was unable to confirm it.

said things he might regret. They say Sir Tim asked if Mr Branson planned to relay Mr Snowden's offer to the press. That account was holly dis-Meanwhile, attention fo-

called Mr Branson about something else arising from the meeting with Mr Snowden. cused on a telephone call to Mr

IN BRIEF

Redwood challenge

Conveyancing row

John Redwood issued a fresh challenge to the Prime Minis-ter over Europe. Page 8

The Law Society faces a stormy meeting tomorrow when thousands of solicitors try to ban cutprice conveyancing.

England's tough draw England will meet Italy, Poland, Georgia and Moldova in the qualifying competition for the

1998 World Cup. Today's weather

Generally cloudy, with the best of any sunshine in the West and Scotland. Section 2, page 21



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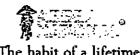
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An open letter to St George's pupils

As midnight tolled last Friday, your head teacher, and my husband, lost his fight for life. Your sweet letters to me recognise that, in that moment, the world was deprived of a man of great strength, tendemess and

profound understanding.
You tell me how he gave you pride in your school and, even more importantly, in yourselves. You speak of his friendliness and humour.

At home, he would share with me and our children his delight in your daily progress and his conviction that each one of you is a fine human being who has the potential to achieve great things. I share that conviction.

Through your towing letters, I can see how much you care about other people. I can see that you understand the difference between right and wrong and your belief that love should always overcome hatred. Your head teacher's - my husband's - death will not be in vain if you grow up with these ideals noted firmly in your hearts.

I have heard so much about you all. I have found great comfort in your letters and comments. I should like to visit you in the New Year.

Violence is not a knife in the hand. It grows, like a poison tree, inside people who, unlike yourselves, have not learned to value other human beings. Now, I trust you to work as hard as you can, in school and

at home, to create a world in which goodness is never again Francis Cantina

Love must triumph over hate, says head's widow

Crime Correspondent

The widow of Philip Lawrence, the headmaster who was stabbed to death outside his school, yesterday wrote to her husband's pupils saying that his death would not be in vain if they learnt that "love should always overcome hatred".

Frances Lawrence, whose letter was read to the pupils over the school tannoy system, added that she hoped the murder would be a life-long lesson for the youngsters showing the difference between right and

It was her first public state-

ment since her husband was

wonderful letter': Philip wrence's widow Frances

man Catholic School, Maida Vale, west London. lan Hamerton, administration manager at

For the second day children arrived for school with flowers in memory of Mr Lawrence, a 48-year-old father of four. Det Supt Brian Edwards, leading the inquiry, appealed to the family, relatives and friends of the youths involved to contact police. Scotland Yard has denounced reports that the murder team is on the verge of making arrests. Jack Straw, shadow Home Secretary, has written to

Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, offering Labour support in any curb on knives. He called for tougher jail sentences for the illegal carrying of knives and urged a change in the law to put the onus on anyone with a knife to prove they had it for

Pupil violence, page 2 1

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destroyed by evil.

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murdered on Friday, while protecting a pupil from a gang of youths outside St George's Ropropriate."

St George's, said later: "It was a wonderful letter and highly appropriate." a legitimate purpose. section

IN BRIEF

MP's death cuts Tory majority to 5 Sir David Lightbown, the for-

New setback for rail franchise plans

CHRISTIAN WOLMAR and STEPHEN GOODWIN

The fate of the Government's rail franchise plans is hanging in the balance after three Court of Appeal judges unexpectedty decided to postpone their decision on an attempt by campaigners to declare the process unlawful.

Sir Thomas Bingham, Master of the Rolls, sitting with Lord Justice Waite and Lord Justice Otton, had said on Monday that they would rule on the case brought by the Save our Rail-

CHRIS BLACKHURST

Westminster Correspondent

The six men in the room nod-

ded politely to each other. Four

of them stood at one end, chat-

ting and waiting for the meet-

ing to begin. Two sat at the table,

been brooding for 48 hours

about what he was going to say.

No sooner - by his account and

those of his two colleagues -

had he greeted Peter Davis, the

director general of Oflot, the lottery regulator, than he

How could a committee

headed by Mr Davis have sanc-

tioned awarding the lottery to Camelot? Mr Branson argued that one of Camelot's share-

holders and the company that

would be running the game on behalf of the consortium,

GTECH, had been pilloried in

the press for its handling of lot-

Mr Branson retold his own

experience of dealing with

them, when Guy Snowden, the

GTECH co-chairman, had made him a bizarre offer - which

Mr Davis, according to the

Branson version, launched into

a strong defence of GTECH,

saying the American firm had

been looked at by Interpol and

Davis made clear his lack of in-

tention to rake over the Amer-

ican company's antecedents

and Mr Branson and his two

colleagues, John Jackson and

Gerard Tyrrell, sat down. The

formal discussion began into

why, two days previously, Mr

Branson's Lottery Foundation

lhat was in May 1994 at

bid had proved unsuccessful.

Oflot's headquarters in Hay-

market, London, Eight months

previously, over on the other

side of town, in the very differ-

ent surroundings of Mr Bran-

It was all over in seconds. Mr

given a clear bill of health.

he believed was a bribe.

teries in America.

dropped the bombshell.

going through their papers. One, Richard Branson, had ways campaign yesterday, but instead they announced a further delay of their decision un-

The postponement, which the judges said was because they felt it would wrong to be "stampeded" into judgment "when none of us feel ready to do so". forced the Government to cancel yesterday's planned announcement of the winners of the first two franchises.

The cost of rail privatisation again provoked sharp exchanges in the Commons between the Prime Minister and

Lunch left Branson

with indigestion

another meeting had taken

bility of running a non-profit-making draw, Mr Branson and Mr Jackson, his bid co-ordina-

tor, had suggested a lunchtime

meeting with Mr Snowden of GTECH, the world's biggest

The company was not alone

other companies, like IBM and

ICL, had been contacted to see

what they could bring to the

suspicion by Branson camp

GTECH, as Mr Branson

knew, was committed to the

Camelot consortium, but he

made his pitch anyway: would

GTECH be interested in join-

ing him? Snowden could not see

what was in it for GTECH and,

besides, it was already tied to

Camelot. The only way GTECH could help Mr Bran-

son would be if he joined the

It was then, according to the

Branson-Jackson account, that

Mr Snowden made his play.

Over the sweet course, he said:

"Well. I don't know how to

phrase this, Richard. There is al-

ways a bottom line. In what way

Mr Branson did not ask him

can I help you. Richard? I'm sure

everybody needs something."

son's family home cum business what, exactly, he had in mind

Camelot consortium.

specialist lottery operator.

Keen to explore the possi-

headquarters in Holland Park. but soon after, left the rom.

Tony Blair, the Labour leader. senger services on South West John Major sidestepped re- Trains and LTS (London, Tilbury and Southend) Rail peated demands by Mr Blair to know whether the public subsidy were due to be announced yesto the railways was set to rise dramatically after privatisation, terday; and Jeremy Sullivan QC, for Roger Salmon, the director of rail franchising, asked and what was the latest official if the signing ceremonies could estimate. But he accused the go ahead. Labour leader of trying to

"smear" the sale when every previous privatisation had been

a success. "Rail privatisation will

produce a better service for all

passengers. If Mr Blair waits for

the new franchise decisions he

will begin to see that himself."

went up the stairs to the toilet, and made a hasty note of what

had just been said. Soon after Mr Branson re-

turned, the lunch ended and Mr

Snowden left. Snowden cate-

gorically denies having offered Mr Branson a bribe. Later that

afternoon - two days later, ac-

cording to the other side, al-

though the lunch had been on

a Friday and Mr Branson would

not have been in London on a

Sunday - Sir Tim Bell, the public relations guru, called.

Appointed by British Airways

to deal with the media fall-out

from the airline's dirty tricks

campaign against Virgin, he

was viewed with deep suspicion

in the Branson camp. Intrigued as to what he wanted - and anxious that Will Whitehorn, his

own PR man, should bear wit-

ness -Branson put his phone on

Mr Branson and Mr White-

horn say Sir Tim did not beat

about the bush. He said he act-

ed for GTECH and was fol-

lowing up on the lunch meeting.

He had heard it had not gone

well and he was concerned Mr

Snowden may have said unfor-

tunate things he might regret.

According to Mr Branson and

Mr Whitehorn, Sir Tim asked:

"Are you going to be saying any-

thing about it?"

Mr Branson's reply, they claim, was succinct: "What's the

point? I'm going to bid for the

The Bell version is different.

There was a phone call follow-

ing Mr Snowden's lunch. It was

at Mr Snowden's request, to tell

Mr Branson his approach to

GTECH would be put to the

Camelot board. Did Sir Tim say

Mr Branson is itching for a

writ, challenging Mr Davis,

GTECH, Mr Snowden and Sir

Tim to sue him. If they do, a

great public battle hinging on his

word and those of his team

against theirs, is promised.

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those words? "Absolutely not."

the speaker.

The first franchises for pas-

He said he would make an undertaking to the court to adjust the franchise as necessary to obey the eventual judgment, but Sir Thomas Bingham said signing of the contracts should await the judicial outcome. The Secretary of Save Our

Lottery bribes row: Millionaire tells of meeting with GTECH boss and how he shared concern with Oflot

the fact that the "very senior judges" of the Court of Appeal were taking the issue seriously enough to grant a stay of the franchise signing to give themselves more time to consider. "We are very pleased the judges ordered the franchise director not to go ahead with any sign-ing until the judgment," he said.

Although the Government which has already missed its franchising targets several times -will be anxious to sign the first two or three away before Christmas, whoever loses this

Yesterday, the Independent are on the timetable. learnt that Chiltern Railways, which should have been ready for tenders before Christmas, is also now delayed because Mr Salmon failed to consult widely enough with rail operators in the Midlands. The franchise will not be offered until next month at the earliest.

The case centres on the fact that Mr Salmon - in drawing up his "passengers service requirements" for the minimum

case is likely to appeal to the House of Lords, causing further delays.

service level to be provided by franchise operators – left out large numbers of trains which

Mr Justice Macpherson had ruled in the High Court that Mr Salmon did not act "perversely, irrationally or unfairly" and nissed the case, but the Appeal judges listened much more sympathetically to the Save Our Railways' case.

Should the case eventually be won by the campaigners, it is likely that the Government will have to start the whole franchising process again.

mer Tory whip and MP for Staffordshire South-East, died yesterday of a heart attack

which struck while he was watching the Varsity rugby match at Twickenham. He was His death cuts the government's majority to five, but his seat is eminently winnable by Labour, which would take the majority down to three, assuming Labour holds Hemsworth, the Yorkshire seat currently vacant after the death last month of Derek Enright. Sir David had a majority of 7,192 over Labour at the last election, vulnerable to a 6.3 per-cent swing. The Liberal De-

Hospital inquiry

the vote in 1992.

Police have dropped an investigation into a possible copycate crune at the hospidal where the killer murse Beverley Allist mandered four children But senior officials at Granthan and District General Hospital, Lines, said they would carry out their own investogation after an in-cident earlier this year when an 83-year-old patient received an insulin overdose.

mocrats trailed a poor third, with just under 10 per cent of

Live calves ruling.

The RSPCA, Compassion in World Farming had the laternational Fundation Animal Welfare succeed to having a judicial review in the particular rules for the European Court of Justice. They claim that appriculture minister, Douglas kiogg has the legal powers to ban calf exports to Europe. The groups ports to Europe. The groups wanted the European Court of Justice to decide on the issue and the High Court in London agreed to a referral to Luxem-

School challenge

Pupils and parents at Hackney Downs School, the first to be recommended for closure by a Government-appointed "hit squad", failed in a High Court bid to win a last-minute reprieve. But they were give leave to appeal and the case is expected to be heard before its day - the last day of teristand the effective closure date leaving pupils unclear as a where they will in select at ter Christmas were the christmas will be the christmas were the christmas were considered at the christ

Noise fines

Noisy neighbours face a £40 on the spot fixed penalty if they refuse to comply with warnings to tone down night time nuisance, under tough measures announced by the Governmen. The creation of a new nighttime noise offence - between-11pm and 7am, is part of a pack-, age designed to tackle and clarify ways of dealing with the ways of dealing with the problem of noise in towns and cities. Under the new offence noise such as from a ghetto = 2. blaster, discotheque or live band or machinery - would? have to exceed 35 decibels and the background level by at least 10 decibels when measured in 14.4 a complainant's house, before action is taken.

way. If Government decides to purchase it compulsarily, then the trust has a special right to put the matter before both houses of Parliament.



Quiet man: Peter Davis is the epitome of respectability

Photograph: David Rose

Man who has pride in being boring

Chris Blackhurst finds an unlikely

target for trouble Peter Davis who, in his own words, prides himself on being "a middle-aged accountant,

ultimately very boring and re-spectable", must find the current furore his worst nightmare. Aged 54, this quiet figure is the epitome of respectability and safety. A partnership at Price Waterhouse by 32 was followed by a spell with the Harris Queensway carpet group, a management post with Sturge, the insurance company, and the post of deputy chairman of

Abbey National.

By the time headbunters searching for a safe pair of hands to oversee the running of the lottery came calling, he

was, unusually, out of work. Director general of Oflot was a job he wanted. He has offered this description of why he was picked: "If you look at Peter Davis, you could say he has skills in banking, retailing and finance. I think I am a careful, cautious chap who has an

It must have been nambing then to be told be an MP on the Public Accounts Committee

-that he was ill-advised to have taken the flights. Mr Davis said he had taken advice and, without the GTECH jet, the trip, to visit lotteries in the US, "would have taken a great deal longer and would have cost the taxpayer a great deal more".

But this, from Alan Williams MP, must have stung: "The imnocent abroad when it comes to dealing with US gambling operations. You are left flour-When it comes, the PAC report may end a very British career.

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Record rise in pupil violence

A record rise in pupil violence against teachers and other children was revealed yesterday in

The National Association of Schoolmasters Union of Women Teachers published figures showing that serious attacks on teachers are up by 37 per cent on last year.

Many attacks are by pupils who have been excluded from school by headteachers for violence and who are returned

after appealing, says the survey. One Sheffield pupil who had been permanently excluded for threatening a teacher with a knife was reinstated by governors. In a Birmingham school teachers and pupils were regu-larly attacked by a five-year-old.

There were 51 violent incidents, mainly attacks on teachers, compared with 37 last year, says the NASUWI The previ-

ous highest figure was 50 assaults in 1987. The figures include only the most serious cases in which the union has been asked to intervene. Most incidents are dealt

with by individual schools. -Nigel de Gruchy, the union's general secretary, said: "These figures are only the tip of a very

large iceberg of indiscipline.
The worst aspect is the number of children who have been returned to their schools on appeal after being excluded by school heads and governors. It is time for teachers to be supported in their efforts to teach the majority of children who want to learn without fear of

Asda attacked as 'Scrooge'

BARRIE CLEMENT Labour Editor

Asda stores chief Archie Norman was branded a "Scrooge" yesterday after withdrawing Christmas bonuses from women who have taken maternity leave.

As part of a crackdown on absenteeism, management is reducing or withdrawing the festive pay-out to anyone who has taken time off within the last six months.

The company has made no exception for pregnant women and could now be taken to court for sex discrimination by the GMB general union. The fact that fathers who have taken paternity leave could also lose their bonus, will prove no defence to any lawsuit, employees' representatives argue.

Donna Covey, national offi-cer for the GMB general union at the stores group, predicted that the company would tomorrow report a 20 per cent increase in half-yearly profits and said it was the worst case of "penny-pinching" she had seen. Management grants a £20

Asda voucher to staff who work more than 15 hours a week and £10 to those who work less than 15 hours. Employees will not be paid the bonus if they have an absence rate within the last six months of 3.4 per cent - approximately four days on a 37.5 hour shift. Those with an absence rate between 0.1 and 3.3 per cent will lose half the

Ms Covey said: "Asda are hugely profitable and can easily afford to give all their staff the £20 vouchers.

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Town Hall chaos as Church sticks to his guns

PATRICIA WYNN DAVIES Political Correspondent

Walsall Council leader "Citizen" Dave Church and 14 fellow left-wing activists were effectively expelled by Labour yesterday for setting up a "party within a party",

The move comes less than a month after Mr Church, his deputy, John Rothery and the former council leader, Brian Powell, were suspended from the party by its national executive committee, pending an investigation by John Prescott, Labour's deputy leader, into claims that they were operating within a splinter organisation, the Waisail Socialist Group.

The row leaves the West Midlands council with two competing Labour factions - and the future governance of the district in disarray and uncertainty. Labour's action - subject to ratification by the National Constitutional Committee but a virtual foregone conclusion -

came after a defiant Mr Church, supported by Mr Rothery and 13 other councillors, insisted at a council meeting on Monday night that he re-mained council leader, with Mr Rothery his deputy, despite the suspensions. The chaotic turn of events

comes after an unrepentant Mr Church vowed he would not "go quietly" after being sus-

pended. "The people of Walsall voted me in and this is where I will stay until they vote me out again," Mr Church declared after the meeting. Of his controversial "power to

the people" decentralisation drive, he said: "If the national party is worried that trying to introduce more democracy in Walsall is embarrassing, that's up to them."

A furious Labour HQ swiftly invoked section 2A_4(b) of the Labour Party rules, the provision used to expel members of Militant and other entryist groups, which says: "A member of the party who joins and/or supports a political organisation in a party were absolutely acother than an official Labour

group or other unit of the party shall automatically be ineligible to be or remain a party

A spokesman claimed the group had effectively "expelled themselves" by their actions. They would be prevented from re-applying for membership for at least five years. Ray Farrell, a moderate, was

elected by the official Labour group as council leader last week; in place of Mr Church. A Labour spokesman said: "In the Walsall Socialist Group we are dealing with a Militant-style organisation. The earlier allegations about a party with-

The spokesman went on to castigate Tory and Liberal Democrat councillors for failing to support moves by the official Labour group to to install new committee chairmen and vicechairmen in place of Walsali Socialist Group members who bad resigned. Five of six Liberal Democrats yoted with the Walsall Socialist Group. None of the chairmanships was settled. Mr Rothery described Labour's likening of the group to Militant as "total nonsense; it's just-completely untrue."He said Labour's move had given controi to the Tories because the official Labour group had been cut to 19 councillors, compared

with 20 Conservatives.

Rapist 'may have struck 100 times'

Crime Correspondent

A serial rapist and convicted sex offender who stalked his victims buggery, three indecent asas they walked home late at night was given live life sentences yesterday for "ferocions". attacks on eight women.

Police believe up to another 100 women were also attacked by Victor Willoughby, 30, but have not reported the crimes. Yesterday they appealed for them to come forward.

The Old Bailey was told that Willoughby began targeting his

after he was released from jail for a previous sex attack. He showed no emotion as the jury convicted him of four rapes, saults, false imprisonment, and robbery.

The eight women, aged between 16 and 47, were subjected to sexual assaults around Willesden, north-west London. over a 12-month period. Willoughby, of Tottenham, north London, stalked night buses and scoured streets in his search for victims. All the women were on

London, Judge Neil Denison, said the attacks "were all of the most appailing ferocity". The protection of the com-

munity and particularly of

women requires that I pass an Detective Superintendent Duncan MacRae, who led the investigation, speaking after the trial, said: "Our inquiry tells us there are many more victims out there. Certainly he is

their way home after a night out. the most prolific rapist to be

convict the rapist, who had dealing with the tip of the ice-denied all the charges. dealing with the tip of the ice-berg... I would not be surprised and chased by police. He es-The Common Sergeant of if over 100 rapes had been

He said Willoughby was the most dangerous serial sex offender he had ever come across. The police yesterday appealed to women who had not yet reported attacks to contact their Ipline on 0181 733 3842.

Willoughby was trapped by a police surveillance operation, codenamed Pandora, in which plain clothes officers followed night buses. In October last year the rapist, who always wore a victims in London two months: A DNA sample was used to caught using DNA. We are hood or mask, was seen fol-

DNA tests on a sample of his hair matched semen found after several of the attacks. Willoughby had previously been sentenced to eight years in 1986 for attempting to rape a

night bus. On his release in 1992, he wounded a man in a street attack and was sent back to prison for 12 months. began stalking and attacking his

woman walking home from a

Released in August 1993, he

see him sentenced.

In one attack he pretended he was a minicab driver and then raped the woman in the car. Another he knocked out before driving her to a garage

where he raped her. In some attacks he hid behind bushes and pounced on his victims from behind, dragging them into alleyways and, on one occasion, into a churchvard.

He received life sentences for each of the rapes and the buggery. He was jailed for 10 years for the indecent assaults, 10 current victims within weeks.

Two were in court yesterday to eight years for robbery and attempted robbery and 12 months for dangerous driving all to run concurrently.

Two of his victims - both students - joined the police appeal for other women attacked by Willoughby to come forward.

One victim, aged 22, said the attack had changed her life and made her so angry she was determined to go through with the court case. "It has made me a lot more nervous about going out. It has made me rethink everything I do - like walking down the street, going out at years for false imprisonment, night, everything," she said.



Victor Willoughby: Given

New drink guidelines Doctors and anti-alcohol campaigners have united to oppose Government recommendations on intake



Toasting their health: Lunchtime drinkers in central London after yesterday's controversial advice on alcohol intake Photograph: Dillon Bryden

Advice is out of step with medical opinion

LIZ HUNT Health Editor

Government recommendations on alcohol intake have been subject to revision before, but yesterday's announcement is the first time such advice has been so out of kilter with the opinion of the Royal medical colleges, the British Medical Association and anti-drink cam-

The medical establishment had suspected that such moves were afoot and had taken action to persuade the Government to think again, with a number of

influential reports this year. In April, the BMA published Alcohol: Guidelines on Sensible Drinking, compiled by its Board of Science and Education, which concluded that: "The current limits of 21 units per week for men and 14 for women, should be main-

A joint report from the Royal College of Physicians, the Royal College of Psychiatrists and the Royal College of General Practitioners in June urged the Government not to raise current safe drinking limits.

At a press conference to launch Alcohol and the Heart in Perspective: Sensible Limits Reaffirmed, senior doctors warned against the powerful influence of the drinks lobby which was pushing the message that alco-

bying ministers for a relaxation on limits. Professor Sir Leslie Turnberg, president of the Royal College of Physicians, said the Colleges were absolutely opposed to raising the limits.

Just last month, the Royal College of Physicians and the British Paediatric Association warned that the drinks industry was targeting young people with a new range of alcoholic lemonades and colas. Alcohol and Young People concluded that alcohol was at least as great a threat as illegal drugs to child health.

Prior to this, doctors and the Department of Health had worked in harmony to establish the message of safe or low risk drinking limits. This concept did not appear until 1984 when the then Health Education Council issued its pamphlet. "That's the limit." This defined the amounts of alcohol, well within "safe limits," which people were advised to limit their drinking. For men it was 18 "standard drinks" (equivalent to units) a week and 9 for women.

In the 1987 edition of the leaflet, the sensible limit - defined in units for the first time as the limits above which health risks could accrue - were set at 21 units a week for men and 14

"Too much" was defined as 56

a week for men and 35 for

hol is good for health, and lob- units a week for women. These were endorsed by the Royal Colleges, and officially adopted by the Government in the Lord President's Report on Alcohol Misuse in 1991. They were used to set targets in The Health of the Nation for reducing alcohol misuse in 1992.

However, throughout the late 1980s and early 1990s studies were being reported which suggested that moderate alcohol consumption had a protective effect on the heart. This led to doubts about the possibly restrictive nature of the guidelines – especially as some countries with low rates of heart discase, such as France, had a much higher alcohol intake fusion on the "to drink or not drink" issue. In 1994, the Government set up its inter-departmental working party which

Stephen Dorrell, Secretary of State for Health, dismissed suggestions that publication of the report, less than two weeks before Christmas, had any sinister motive. However, leading doctors who have been repeatedly issued warnings of the insidious influence of the drink manufacturers, insisted that the timing was calculated to instil a false sense of security in people who like to drink but wor-

reported yesterday to review the

current sensible drinking limits.

Bemused indifference from Britain's drinking classes

DECCA ATTKENHEAD

North Frest

The decision to raise the recommended safe fimits met with bemused indifference among drinkers in London's West End yesterday hinchtime. The new guidance was widely dismissed as laughable, and irrelevant to people's drinking habits.
"I've never paid any attention

to it before, and I won't start pulled out of a hat because they now," scoffed Nicky Joses, a civil servant, enjoying a pint of beer in The Salisbury, in Covent

"On average I suppose I drink about four pints of bitter a day, if not more

other people - they're certain-

At the nearby Lamb and "I wish they'd even it up be. Labour's consumer affairs the 1988 Licensing Act to be tween men and women. Then spokesman, Nigel Griffiths, amended "Test purchases are I might pay some attention. called for a change in the law "I think it's crap to say that - to allow trading standards

how much I drink - they just af ue in them, and I don't expect fect what I tell my doctor I there is in the new ones either."

Others were sceptical of the credentials of the new recommended levels. Robin Gray, 40, a graphic designer, enjoying a pint with colleagues, asked: "Why on earth should we trust the new figures, when they've admitted that the old ones were

On average, he said, he drinks a couple of pints a day, phis six or more on a Friday and Saturday night. "Safe levels for "There was no scientific valhealth don't worry me. The

better not have any more'.

allows children, under supervi-

it is illegal for children to buy

alcohol, so test purchases can

not be made, as the children

an effective and proven deter-

rent. I cannot understand why

Mr Griffiths said he wanted

would also be guilty.

Child 'traps' proposed

Those official limits are for Children should be allowed to pose as customers to trap offly not for me. I enjoy my drink icences selling alcohol to under-and nobody's going to dictate to me what I should or shouldn't day. The call came as a leading children's doctor said three out of four emergencies she had encountered at one stage male drinker was equally robust. involved drunk adolescents.

men can drink more than cofficers and police to work with

that I used to be able to drink One colleague, Keith Freshmore, and now I don't seem water, 20, said: "You may have the recommended figure somewhere in the back of your head,

Hangovers, driving and cost were all cited as more effective but you certainly don't ever go out thinking 'Ooh, I've had this many units this week, I'd deterrents than health worries. Natasha Longworth, 19, a stu-dent who admits to drinking well over the old recommended levels, said: "What you think about when you drink is how you are going to feel the next

thing that worries me more is

morning - that's all."
Paul Webster, a businessmen in his 40s, accused the Government of bad timing. "Why are they encouraging people to drink a bit more at exactly the same time as they are running a campaign against drink-dri-

sion, 10 buy cigarettes, adult videos and fireworks. However, ving?" he asked.
As the lanchtime trade departed, retired seaman Peter Barnes was still standing at the

He is there every day, he says, from "midday till, well, let's say teatime". And he admitted: "I can't honestly say I've never heard about any of these levels. The only thing that sends me home each day is the bloody price of a pint." Home Office ministers are

The unit and you explained

A unit of alcohol is 8 grams: the amount contained in half a pint of ordinary beer or lager, or in a small glass of wine or in a standard measure of spirits.

How many units can I Luow drink?

As much or as little as you want. However, new advice of from the Government is that regular consumption of between three and four units a day by men of all age - and two and three units

significant health risk. Men who drink consistently four or more units a day (3 or more units for women) are health risk associated with its binges, ministers say.

week by men - which equates to three units a day - and 14 units a week by women - 2 mits a day - is unlikely to damage health.

QWhy is the Government switching to daily guide-lines?

... The Government says that a recommended daily alcohol limit is a more useful aid to drinkers monitoring their intake, than a weekly total.

 It argues that it will help peoby women - does not present a ple avoid drunkenness by encouraging them to plan how much to drink on a social occasion. The weekly limit hears little relation to single drinking warned of the progressive episodes and may mask heavy

Qhow do the new guide-lines compare with ex- units in a binge?

sible drinking advice is that pact of binge drinking violence, drinking less than 21 units a depression, suicidal behaviour, the increased risk of accidents - the health benefits of alcohol is more evident with regular dai-

> In fact the benefits may be lost altogether - and the health risks exacerbated - by irregular heavy drinking episodes.

QWhat is the evidence that drinking is A. harmful; B. beneficial

A: In the short term alcohol is implicated in many accidents at home and on the road; in violent crime, domestic violence. child neglect and abuse. In the long term heavy con-

sumption of alcohol is linked with both cirrhosis and cancer of the liver. There are also reports of an association between alcohol and cancer of the stomach, colon, rectum, lung and pancreas, although a causal link has been ruled out. There

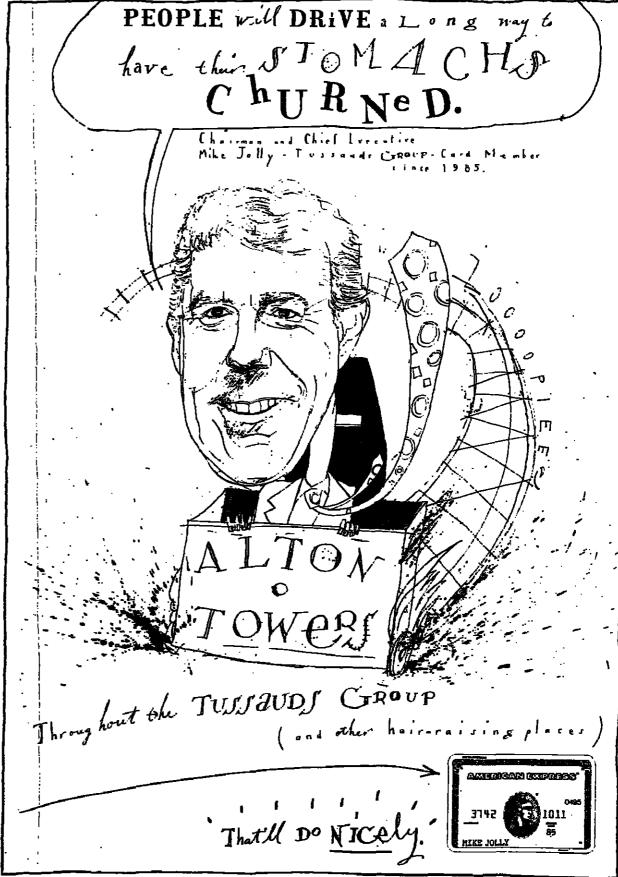
cancer. High blood pressure with associated risk of heart attack or stroke - may result from regular drinking and binge drinking in particular. In pregnant women, alcohol

can induce abortion, impaired foetal growth, facial and other physical defects, and impaired physical and mental development in childhood. It may also effect fertility in both sexes. Heavy drinking also has a major impact on mental health, being strongly related to depression and suicide, while 25

B. Many studies show that light to moderate consumption of alprotects against coronary heart disease, ischaemic stroke, and cholesterol galistones. The evidence to date suggests that the beneficial effects on the heart relate only to men over 40

units or more a day long term

results in brain damage.



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Row over £10m to tackle teacher shortages

FRAN ABRAMS Education Correspondent

Incentives of £10m are to be offered to attract graduates into teaching amid rising concern that schools could face severe staff shortages in the next five

Some universities are cutting back teacher training places despite a recent baby boom which will mean an extra 87,000 pupils start school next year. They say they cannot find school placements for students who want to teach in shortage subjects such as modern languages and science.

Gillian Shephard, the Secretary of State for Education. wants the colleges to recruit an extra 11,000 trainee teachers in the next five years. But the colleges say they are already struggling to fill their places and applications have dropped by 10 per cent in the past year.

Teachers and training insti-tutions say the job is becoming less attractive rather than more so. More teachers now retire early than at retirement age, with many forced to leave because of ill-health or stress. Last month, Mrs Shephard wrote to the teachers' pay re-

view body warning against a generous salary rise this year. The Teacher Training Agency, the quango which oversees the process, has written to universities to invite bids for a share of the £10m, which had previously been used to offer bursaries to recruits taking less popular subjects.

A spokesman said only 6 per cent of bursary students had been influenced to enter teaching by the incentive. "What we really want now is bold and innovative ideas that break new ground and really address the shortage areas," he said

Mary Russell, secretary of the

was growing concern over possible teacher shortages. A new high-profile incentive scheme was needed so that potential trainees knew of the bonuses available for choosing teaching.

She said new arrangements under which student teachers spend more time in the classroom were causing problems because placements in subjects like science, which require

cutting their places rather than risk financial penalties which would result from not being full. There were also plans to withhold money from colleges if their trainees failed to get a job, she said, but in many cases this

was totally beyond their control. Some courses were likely to be withdrawn because the obstacles being put in their way by the Government made them un-

Universities' Council for the 'scarce laboratory space, were viable. "We have tried to bring fraining of Teachers, said there hard to find. Universities were it home to the Teacher Training Agency that if conditions go on the way they are there could well

be a major supply situation before much longer," she said. The Department for Education said there was no shortage of teachers at present. Primary school guptas were being met and although there were chalment were compensated for by extra recruitment, she said.

David Blunkett, Labour's education spokesman, has written to the training agency to point out that targets for recruitment to primary education and for maths and English teachers have dropped since 1984.

"Taken with the drop in specialist teacher training applications, this represents an lenging targets for the next five extremely serious problem for years these were achievable. future years," he said. Losses through early retire-

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Social phobia: Victims find everyday situations impossible to cope with, but ignorance means treatment is too often denied

Deep-rooted fears make prisoners of more than a million

GLENDA COOPER

More than a million people three per cent of the adult population - are suffering from social phobia, but only 10 per cent receive treatment, according to the Royal College of

Social phobia - the fear of scrutiny by others - generally begins in mid-teenage years when it causes a great deal of

A further seven per cent of people avoid certain social sitrations and 40 per cent consider themselves shy.

Sufferers display a marked and persistent fear of social or performance situations, which provoke a panic attack, even though they realise the fear is excessive or unreasonable.

Typical fears include being introduced to strangers, eating or drinking in a public place, writ-ing in front of others or being

Those who suffer from social phobia, or social anxiety disorder, as it is also known, have common symptoms. Seventynine per cent said they suffered from palpitations, 75 per cent from trembling and 74 per cent sweating. Other symptoms included a sinking stomach,

In addition, social phobia is

seen as being responsible for the onset of other serious conditions, such as depression, agoraphobia and, most particularly, alcoholism and drug abuse. The logic is that social phobics will drink or take drugs in order to muster Dutch courage to socialise, but by doing so they cause more harm to themselves. Suicide attempts are also significantly higher among

social phobics. The causes of social phobia are not known but may stem back to childhood. Dr Maicolm Lader, professor of clinical psychopharmocology at the Institute of Psychiatry in London, said: "Every child is fearful of strangers but usually develops through this by parental example and biological maturation to become a social animal." However, in some children, this does not happen.

"This can be long-term lifetime behaviour which doesn't tend to get better" he added. At present there are two main means of treating social

phobics - either through psy-chology or prescribed drugs. Dr David Clark, of Oxford University, said that if social phobics were given 12 weeks cognitive behaviour therapy, 70 per cent of patients would make a marked improvement, which would be still apparent

The treatment involves the patients facing their fears such as writing a cheque in public if they fear their hands tremble too much. Conversational skills are also taught.

The other option is drug treatment and so far the most effective treatments have been the use of anti-depressants. Fifty to sixty per cent of patients treated with either mono-amine oxidase inhibitors or reversible inhibitors of mono-amine oxidase showed significant improvement after 16 weeks.

The Royal College of Psychiatrists is launching a free leaflet, Help Is At Hand, which explains treatments and symptoms of social phobia. Dr Lader called for GPs to

be more aware of those suffering from social phobia and for combined drug and psychological treatments to be given.
In the US, where the condi-

tion is already treated as an anxiety disorder, studies show that about 1.5 per cent of the US male population and 3 per cent of the US female population will experience symptoms of social phobia during their lives for up to six months. A further study found that just over 11 per cent of US men and 15 per cent of US women will have the condition permanently. Up to 50 per cent of sufferers in the US



lan Leonard : He had such a severe panic attack on the Underground that he thought it was cardiac arrest

'Going to a restaurant was terrifying'

"I lived a life of pretence, not allowing people to know I was suffering," Ian Leonard said. "I wasn't really alive at all." Mr Leonard, now 36, has suffered from social phobia for 14 years, writes Glenda Cooper.

He started having painic at-tacks when he was 22, although he had always been shy: "I was one of these people who would sit at the back of the class and

avoid putting my hand up," he said. "If I was asked a question

I'd go to pieces."
At work, as an environmental manager for a council, he felt. equally insecure. "I felt I had inadequate social skills and very poor conversation. I'd go to work ... with a dry mouth and

ple were looking at me all the

By the time he was 24 his phobia was so bad that he went to a GP, who diagnosed him as suffering from anxiety neurosis. He stayed in work but had difficulty taking on responsibility; even normal social occasions became fraught.

"Going to a restaurant with a racing heart. I'd imagine peo- my partner was terrifying ... I

A PC that's

felt everyone was looking at me the most miserable Christmas and when I picked up my knife and fork my hands started trembling. I was afraid that if I discussed it with anyone they'd come with an ambulance and a

strait-jacket." Things came to a head in 1993, when he had such a severe panic attack on the Underground that he thought it was

ever after being diagnosed as clinically depressed and leaving work. At his doctor's surgery he saw a leaflet for a self-help group which he could only bring imself to attend at first with a family member but gradually went by himself A year on he feels a different person. "I don't believe there's such a thing as

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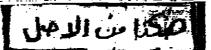




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Elton John case forces rethink of libel awards

STEPHEN WARD

Legal Affairs Correspondent

The law of libel was drastically reformed yesterday, when the Court of Appeal made a landmark ruling that juries should be steered towards much lower awards, by pointing out to tiff had been rendered a helpthem how little money accident

victims get. The Master of the Rolls, Sir Thomas Bingham, sitting with the Court of Appeal had cut ex-Lords Justices Neill and Hirst, cessive awards, juries had conmade the dramatic change at the end of a judgment which reduced a £350,000 award to the rock star Elton John to £75,000. The case may go to the House of Lords,

Yesterday's ruling will affect all future libel judgements, including cases in progress; coun-sel on both sides of a case and the trial judge can put figures to the jury "to reflect the upper and lower bounds of a realistic bracket".

Civil cases other than libel are decided by a judge without a jury, and according to tariffs. Until now; judges have only been able to remind jurors to consider in general terms the monetary value of their awards in terms of a dinner out, a car. a holiday or a three-bedroomed. house. Five years ago, the law was changed to allow the Court of Appeal to cut high awards...

Yesterday's ruling was predictably welcomed by newspa pers and their lawyers, but criticised by others for removing a check on reckless publication by tabloid newspapers.

Elton John, who once won £1m from the Sun in an out-ofcourt settlement, after it ran an article in which a rent boy made false allegations about his private life, said the judgment was unfair. "I believe that the 12 ordinary people on that jury understand today's economics better than the Court of Appeal," he said.

offensive to public opinion, and rightly so, that a defamation plaintiff should recover damages for injury to reputation greater, perhaps by a significant factor, than if that same plainless cripple or an insensate vegetable," he said.

Despite earlier cases in which tinued to hand down damages



Elton John: Ruling cuts his damages dramatically

which "bear no relation to the ordinary values of life".

The three judges added that there had been "a series of jury awards in sums wildly disproportionate to any damage conceivably suffered by the plaintiff has given rise to serious and justified criticism of the procedures leading to such awards".

They added that this could not be considered the fault of juries. Without the clear guidelines which will now be issued,

In their 59-page ruling, the sheep loosed on an unfenced judges said: "It is, in our view, common, with no shepherd." common, with no shepherd."

Juries should not be reminded of previous libel awards as a benchmark, because all cases were different.

They said: "It serves no public purpose to encourage plaintiffs to regard a successful libel action, risky though the process undoubtedly is, as a road to untaxed riches. Nor is it healthy if any legal process fails to command the respect of lawyer and layman alike, as is regrettably true of the assessment of damages by libel juries."

The judges said that men-tioning figures, far from developing into an "auction", would induce a mood of realism on both sides". It would "buttress the constitutional role of the libel jury by rendering their proceedings more rational and so more acceptable to public

The award to Elton John, in November 1993, included £275,000 "exemplary" damages to punish the Sunday Mirror for publishing a totally untrue story that the singer-songwriter was hooked on a bizarre "diet of death" which was a form of the slimmers' disease bulimia.

Jurors accepted his claim that the story was printed recklessly, without regard to the truth, and with the objective of boosting sales of the newspaper for profit.

But payment of the rarely-

awarded punitive damages was suspended pending an appeal by Mirror Group Newspapers. The judges held that the total award was "manifestly excessive" and they reduced the exemplary damages to £50,000. They also reduced the £75,000 compensatory award to £25,000. Although the article was false, offensive and distressing, it did not attack the star's personal integrity or damage his reputation "They were in the position of as an artist, they ruled.



Tory MP 'paid over odds' for flat

REBECCA FÓWLER

David Ashby, the Tory MP, paid over the odds for a flat in south-west London, after he separated from his wife, because he was so keen to live next door to a male friend, according to the woman who sold it to him.

Patricia Bridge, the owner of the Putney flat, was asked by Dr Ciaran Kilduff, who had bought the neighbouring flat, whether she would be interested in selling the second property, which was above his, to Mr Ashby. After Ms Bridge showed Mr Ashby around, they struck a been correct."

deal that he would pay £80,000 for the one-bedroom flat, almost the same price Dr Kilduff had paid a year before, despite the fact Ms Bridge believed the market had declined.

"I had asked more than the going rate, on the basis that two people who were friends would very much want to live next door," Ms Bridge said.

When an article appeared in the press alleging Mr Ashby had left his wife to live close to another man. Ms Bridge believed she had been right. "My thought was that my gamble had Silvana Ashby, the Italian wife of Mr Ashby, also continued to give evidence on the 14th day of her husband's libel case against the Sunday Times and Andrew Neil, the former editor. her. Mr Ashby denies he is a ho-

Mr Ashby and Alex, 27, their daughter, sat together. Richard Hartley QC, for the Sunday

Times, requested that Alex temper "Because I'm Italian should leave the court because. I'm supposed to go mad every her presence upset Mrs Ashby. so often.lsn't that what's being Ms Ashby, who earlier gave evidence against her mother for Mr Ashby, did not leave. Instead she heard her mother say: "This

story had a very deep psychological affect on all of us, and my daughter can't come to terms with it ... I wish she wasn't here now, it only upsets In a colourful exchange with

Geoffrey Shaw QC. for Mr Ashby, Mrs Ashby accused him of trying to stereotype her as an "hysterical Italian" with a fiery said in this court?" she said. Mrs Ashby claims her husband confessed to being homosexual in October 1993...

When Mr Ashby moved to the flat above Dr Kilduff, Mrs Ashby accused them of having an affair. "I knew my husband was taking him to the theatre and cinema, because he told me." Mrs Ashby said.

In a letter to her husband read out in court. Mrs Ashby accused him of taking all their belongings away from the family home, including the cutlery. and was furious Dr Kilduff could be eating with it. "I will disinfect every bit of cutlery that has touched that man's mouth, Mrs Ashby wrote.

The case continues.



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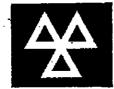
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solicit move

house

growth reduces regional divide

Public Policy Editor

The North-South divide in the United Kingdom is narrowing and is predicted to close further by 2000, according to a report yesterday from the market analysts Mintel. But by then, London will still have an income per head 20 per cent above the national average, with the South-east still enjoying a 10 per

Throughout the 1980s as the ecession in the early part of the decade hit manufacturing and the North, London's wealth advantage over the rest of the London and the South-east

Greater London Out of home leisure activit

Anglia/Miclands Broadly the same factors as adults nationally.

Yorks/NE

credit card ownership

Most items needed for good

Wants more active social life but not possessions or any specific

Financial security, holidays and

Wide range of items, both in-home and out of home activiti

Money, ownership of basic

have taken the brunt of an economic downturn which hit the national average as its role the financial and service sector hardest, while manufacturing has benefited from export growth. As a result, while they remain the most prosperous parts of the country, the two regions saw growth rates of only 14.7 and 16.4 per cent in their per capita while every other part of the United Kingdom did

Northern Ireland saw 25 per cent growth, Scotland 22.8 per cent, Yorkshire and the Northeast 20.1 per cent and the North-west 19 per cent. Since 1986, Scotland has

done particularly well, its un-

269.56 237.41

239.06

Average attitudes and

Too many debts, lack of

in some cases fewer womes than most adults

Northern Ireland - 230.15

Yorks/North-east 218.57

1128

How the regions compare

lower rates of home ownership, house prices rise rather than fall during the recession - up 21 per cent against a 24 per cent fall

oil and gas revenues.

as a finance and electronics centre has expanded on top of its

Angela Hughes, Mintel's consumer research manager, said she expected the North-South divide to continue to close economically, "although I don't believe it will ever close altogether". Mintel's projections are that up to 2000, consumer expenditure will grow by 11.5 per cent from its 1994 figure on average, but London and the South-east will see slower

growth of 9.2 and 10.5 per cent. Despite the closing of the gap, however, marked regiondisparities in lifestyle remain. The image of the "canny Scot" holds up - Scots saving 15 per cent of their disposable income, against a United Kingdom average of 10 per cent. London and the South-east save far less - 6 to 7 per cent and are much more dependent on credit and credit cards.

tion Street lives on with the region spending more in pubs which are rated highly as key centres of social activity. All regions rated a safe

In the North-west, Corona-

neighbourhood as their primary concern, but financial worries, long working bours and lack of free time topped the factors listed by those living in London and the South-east as the issues limiting their enjoyment of life. The North-west emerges as

the home of bargain hunters and the biggest users of market stalls, but it is not the region that enjoys shopping most. That accolade goes to the South-west and Wales, followed by Scotland, with the Scots rating "lots of money" as the a key factor needed for a good quality of life. | Regional Lifestyles, Mintel, 18-19 Long Acre, London, EC1

Fall in capital's Unions flex their muscles in pay disputes



Brothers in arms: Dockers picketing in Liverpool. They were sacked for refusing to cross a picket line set up by colleagues Photograph: Howard Barlow

BARRIE CLEMENT Labour Editor

Leaders of Ford's 22,000 manual workers yesterday ordered a ballot on strikes in the new year amid signs of increasing industrial unrest elsewhere.

As Ford union leaders threatened action, tugboatmen at Liverpool docks staged an unlawful 24-hour stoppage in support of 320 dockers who have been locked out for refusing to cross picket lines.

of 9,000 blue-collar workers warned that industrial action would be stepped up unless talks with management tomorrow produced an improved pay offer. The overtime ban and twohour weekly stoppage at Vauxhall comes amid wide-

spread disruption of postal ser-

vices including a 24-hour strike

over working hours which af-

fected 21 centres in central

London on Monday

While the sporadic industrial action does not represent a widespread resurgence of mil- campaign to elicit a better offer. full that they could bring an end stevedoring company.

itancy, it is nevertheless fresh evidence of discontent among workers in various industries. Representatives of seven

unions at Ford vesterday called for a vote on action, having rejected a two-year package which ease, but which fails to offer a reduction in the working week. Tony Woodley, chief nego-

tiator for the Transport and General Workers' Union in the motor industry, said the ballot, was the logical next step in the

Workers wanted to share in the increasing profitability yielded by improvements in productivity, and they were furious over the "industrial apartheid" which meant they worked longer

He said unions were opti-

mistic that a settlement could be reached without industrial action, but a spokesman for the company insisted that the present offer was "final" · A spokesman for Vauxhall

said management were "hope-

to the dispute in negotiations tomorrow. The two-year offer gives a 3.5 per cent rise in the irst year and a rise matching the inflation rate in the second.

The Liverpool tugboatmen were expected to return to work last night after their 24hour stoppage. Further sympa-thy action will be considered in a meeting scheduled for tomorrow. The 320 port workers were dismissed after taking action to back 80 other dockers in-

Abortion surgeon feared patient's suicide

of performing an illegal abortion said yesterday that he did not "seriously consider" what

view his patient had on abortion. Gynaecologist and obstetrician Reginald Dixon said he knew from Barbara Whiten's medical notes that she gave her religion as Church of England. But he told a jury at Not-

denies unlawfully procuring a miscarriage, there was a "seriously significant risk" that allowing Mrs Whiten's pregnancy to continue might lead her to commit suicide in the future.

"An unplanned and unwanted pregnancy is a greater risk than the termination of an unwanted one," Mr Dixon said.

tion this concern in his notes on eration that she was pregnant the operation. "The notes were written at the end of a busy morning and were written in a

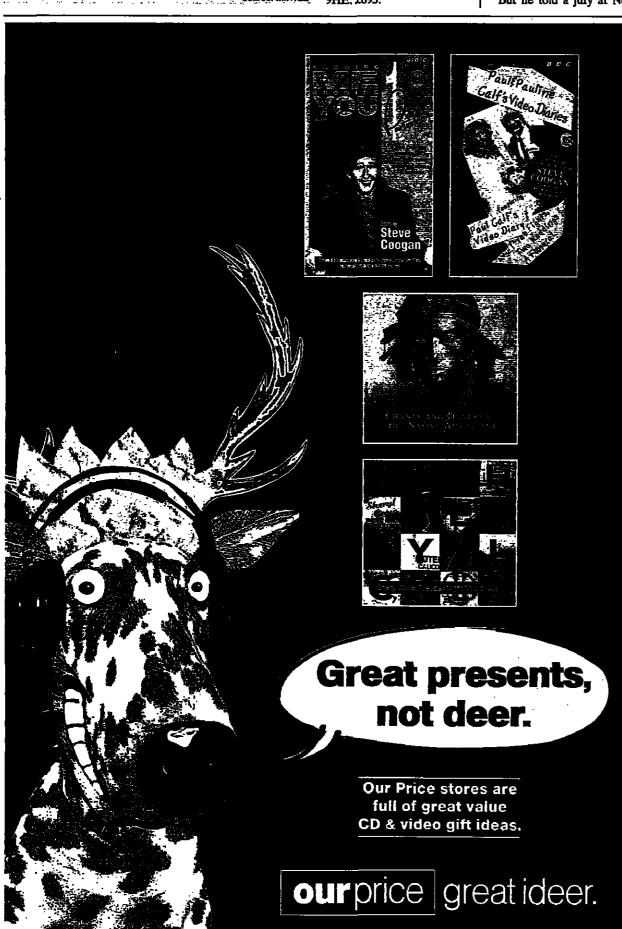
Mr Dixon was supposed to perform a hysterectomy on Mrs Whiten, 38, at Kings Mill hospital, Sutton-in-Ashfield. Nottinghamshire, in March 1993. but continued, which meant aborting the 11-week-old foetus. Mrs Whiten did not discov-

er she had been pregnant until after the operation. She had desperately wanted a family but had been told her illness made her

Mr Dixon, 59, said he be-

condition, as she had been told. He thought she had some othunspecified internal pain.

"If I had gone into the details and spent a great deal of time to me 'I don't care what I have got, I want relief from the





for Return to the Forbidden Planet

If you fancy a trip to the theatre, we would like to offer you the best seats in the house. All this week we are giving you the chance to win top class tickets to shows ranging from opera to ballet to drama.

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joining boxes for the sci-fi rock 'n' roll spectacular, Return To The Forbidden Planet. Bob Carlton's musical, which won the 1990 Olivier Award for Best Musical, is a mind-blowing reworking of The Tempest laced with rock classics such as Great Balls Of Fire and Good Vibrations.

The music is performed live by the multi-talented cast and Gerry Anderson, creator of Thunderbirds, designed the dazzling video special effects.

The prizewinner's performance takes place at the Shaftesbury Theatre on Friday 22 December. 1995, and to be in with a chance of winning two boxes for a total of six people, simply answer the following question.

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Who originally recorded Good Vibrations?

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Your call will last no longer than a minute. Calls cost 39p per minute cheap rate and 49p per minute at all other times. Normal Newspaper Publishing rules apply, the Editor's decision is final. There is no cash alternative. Sorry, this competition is not open to readers in the Republic of Ireland. For further details of this show which runs until 13 January, please call the booking office on 0171 379 5399.

> Tomorrow: Win tickets for Wind in the Willows

cut-price

house sales

the stormiest meetings in its the way to deal with shoddy

to introduce minimum fees three out of four houses are cur-

buying or selling a house for factor from nouses are currently conveyed for less than most people. But scores of Mr Mears will attend to soliculors are likely to conveyed for less than factor for the f

house price - not including VAT, land registration and

Consumer groups argue that

work is to police the profession

better, and not to stop efficient firms from undercutting others.

The proposed guideline would take the cost of conveying a £75,000 house to £625. The

Law Society has found that

push the controversial propos-

als through the council and, if

successful, ask for comments

from the profession and rulings

A fixed scale of fees,

enforceable by law, was abol-

ished by the Government in

1972, but fees remained high

until the mid-1980s when gen-

uine competition was intro-

duced by the abolition of the

solicitors' monopoly on con-

veyancing and an Act allowing solicitors to advertise.

Under the Solicitors Act, for

a price-fixing agreement to be

allowed it needs to be accept-

ed by the Master of the Rolls, who would have to be per-

suaded that the move was in the

Aware that the 65 council

members are likely to be cautious about the change, Mr

Mears plans to begin the meet-

ing with an attempt to change

the voting system so that a

record is kept of how each per-

Mr Mears, elected president

public interest.

son votes.

on the legality of the move.

searches - is suggested.

STEPHEN WARD

Legal Affairs Correspondent

The Law Society faces one of

200-year history tomorrow

when thousands of solicitors try

to force the profession to ban

out-price conveyancing.
Only the 65 members of the

Society's council will be allowed to vote on a proposal

solicitors are likely to converge

on the headquarters in London

John Edge, a Bournemouth

solicitor, has led a campaign in

recent months to force action

over conveyancing fees as low as £150. He claims to have the

support of 11,000 solicitors, al-

most one-fifth of the profession.

argued that it is not allowed

under the law to introduce a

restrictive practice, but in the

first contested elections for 40 years, the anti-establishment

candidates for president and

deputy, Martin Mears and

Robert Sayers, pledged to find

They believe they can do it by

refusing the Law Society's in-demnity insurance to solicitors

who refuse to charge the min-imum fees. Cheap solicitors

would then have to insure them-

selves on the open market, a far

more costly process, and not a

genuine option. A consulta-

tion document prepared by Mr

Sayers, the vice-president, for

this week's meeting argues that

firms which offer cut-price con-

veyancing are cutting corners

and making a disproportionate

demands on the insurance

scheme, the Solicitors Indem-

nity Fund. A minimum fee of

For years the Law Society has

to lobby before the meeting.



Solicitors in Turner unearthed by detective work fetches £100,500



JOHN McKIE

A previously unknown painting by Turner, bought for a few dol-lars at a Canadian country sale, fetched £100,500 when sold to an anonymous collector at an auction at Phillips in London yesterday.

The painting was only con-firmed Turner's work after a pre-vious owner decided to have conservation work carried out. After restorers failed to match the image. Landscape with a Rainbow, to other Turners, West Yorkshire police officers were called in.

John Manners, the head of the force's fingerprint bureau. matched a fingertip print on the painting with one from Turner's famous work, Chichester Canal, at London's Tate Gallery.

John Dabney, Phillips British painting specialist, said: "It is probably the first time fingerprinting has ligured in such an obvious way in confirming the identity of the artist."

At Phillips yesterday, the original puppet stars of the Thunderbirds television series were also yesterday sold to anonymous buyers. A British collector paid £23,000 for the 9ft model of Lady Penelope's pink Rolls-Royce. The same buyer also hought Parker, Lady Penelope's faithful Cockney chauffeur, for £19,550.

The puppet of Lady Penelope was sold to an American buyer for £13,800. All were original models brought to auction

Britain on 'tortuous' road to save flora and fauna

NICHOLAS SCHOON Environment Correspondent

An environmental steering group has set the Government a tough challenge to rescue 116 rapidly declining or very rare wildlife species and 14 threatened habitats, at a cost approaching £40m a year.

this year in the first contest for The report, published today, contains a lengthy set of costthe post in 40 years, conceded the move would not be popued rescue plans, drawn up by lar but argues it is not in the concivil servants from the Departsumer's interest to have ment of the Environment, together with university experts, professionals on the cheap - he maintains that the public needs government agencies, and £250, plus half a per cent of the to have professions it can trust.

such as the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and the World Wide Fund for Nature

The group claims that the document makes Britain the first country in the world to prepare such detailed plans for preserving its biodiversity in the variety of flora and fauna. The Government has promised to respond to the document in the spring, declaring how many of

the plans it is willing to fund. By 2010, about £37m a year will have to be spent if the various habitats, which include nawildlife conservation bodies tive pine woodlands and saline



lagoons, are to be preserved, the

It also points out that Britain has already lost some 100 species this century, including more than 2 per cent of its fish

and mammals, and 5 per cent

of its butterflies. Nine mammals - including the otter, the dormouse, and nine birds - are listed as being in need of support, along with amphibians (the natterjack toad and great crested newt) and four other invertebrates, such as the medicinal leech, are also on the list, as are flowering and other types of plants. The varied species were cho-

sen for one of four reasons: they are very rare, their numbers have fallen rapidly in recent times, they are unique to these islands, or Britain harbours a large proportion of the total global population.

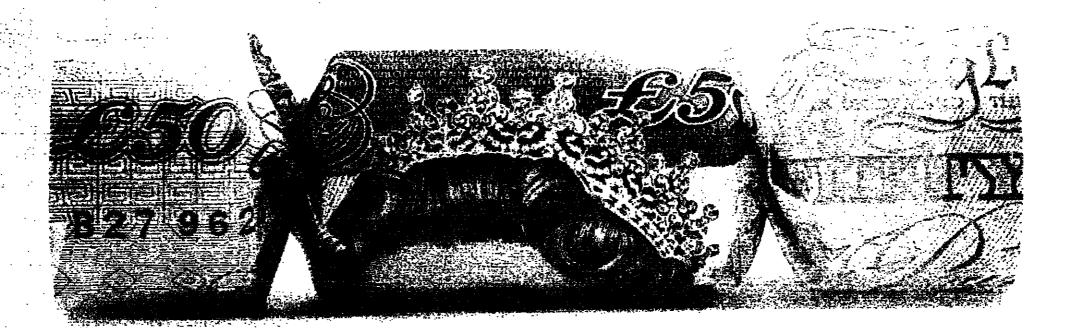
One species of bird, the song thrush, numbers more than I

one reptile (the sand lizard), two million, but it was placed on the list because of its rapid decline over the past 20 years. It is thought to be a victim of modern farming methods, and is still hunted in France, where some British birds migrate in winter. The action plan calls for a halt to the bird's decline by 2000 by subsidising "green" farming methods, and pressing for a hunting ban in France.

Robin Pellow, WWF's UK director, said that implementing the plans "will be a long and tortuous road which will require substantial financial commitment from government".

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Single currency debate: Redwood challenge to reject monetary union in election manifesto raises chances of referendum

Tory divisions over Europe back to fore

DONALD MACINTYRE and COLIN BROWN

The promise of a referendum on the European single currency was moving up the agenda last the Tory party on Europe was d by a fresh cumpaign launched by John Redwood.

The referendum promise by John Major before next year's crucial inter-governmental conference on Europe was emerging as the likeliest way of uniting the party for a general election.
It came as Tory leaders tried to avoid a fresh outbreak of civ-

il war on the eve of Mr Major's negotiations at the Madrid summit. Euro-sceptics meeting at Westminster last night said they would not rock the boat.

Senior Government sources said Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, may be prepared reluctantly to accept the referendum formula as a preferable alternative to ruling out Britain's

"There is an unholy alliance building up for a referendum," said one ministerial source.

Mr Redwood said vesterday: "I am happy we are saying no to a single currency in this Parliament. I hope when the man-ifesto is written, we will make clear statements for the next Parliament. I would like to say no for the next Parliament so people know exactly where we are. I would certainly like the Prime Minister to say there is no question of this country going in without a referendum."

Mr Redwood's remarks re-

opened the row over Europe, with a rebuke by Lord Howe and Sir Leon Brittan, one of Britain's European commissioners. In a joint statement, they said fighting the next elec-tion opposed to Britain joining a single currency would be "profoundly mistaken".

They added: "Any Conservative manifesto commitment inevitably divide the party, fu-elling its electoral difficulties. It would see the Conservative leadership against major parts of UK business and finance. undermining the party's political base."

Robin Cook, Labour's foreign affairs spokesman, said: "The truce in the Tory party is over. John Redwood has once again revealed the deep divi-sions among Conservatives over

In the Commons, Mr Major assured Mr Redwood that at the Madrid summit this weekend he would be pressing his arguments that the impact of a single currency, both on those who joined and those who did not, needed to be much more thoroughly thought through.

Euro-sceptic hostility is likely to be fuelled by a probable summit decision to name the single currency - with the term "Euro" a favoured choice. Mr Redwood said it would be "churlish" not to engage in the debate about the name, but the more serious challenge was to stop any attempt by the French means of rescuing France join-



gen, one of the nine former whipless" Tory rebels, pre-dicted that the truce in the par-

ty over Europe would hold until the general election. He also said that in the event of a

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Throwing the gauntiet: Mr Redwood at his press conference yesterday, at which he denied reopening Tory wounds

debt, which could prevent it meeting the Maastricht criteria.

Meanwhile, Nicholas Budbecome wholly Euro-sceptic.

Redwood joins battle with a

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and the Germans to water down

the Maastricht treaty criteria for joining a single currency.
British officials insisted that

the Madrid agenda did not

provide for a debate on varying

the convergence criteria as a

ing the European Monetary Union in the face of its current

domestic strife. The French are

believed to be keen to ease the

restrictions over its level of

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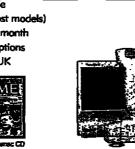
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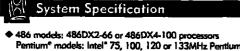
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pamphlet blast

COLIN BROWN

A fresh challenge to John Major was issued by John Redwood yesterday, with a warning not to weaken over the Maastricht terms for creating a single cur-rency on the eve of the Madrid European summit.

He said Mr Major should not allow Germany and France to change the rules laid down in the Maastricht Treaty requiring currency stability for at least two years before a single currency could be launched. The former Welsh secretary, who chal-lenged for the leadership in July, denied he was reopening Tory wounds on Europe. He accused Tony Blair of be-

ing "an appeaser on Europe" when he launched a pamphlet to begin a campaign among British businessmen to oppose the single currency.

Mr Redwood said he be-

lieved Mr Major and other at the heart of Europe if you leaders would be pressed at ring up Germany just to hear Madrid to allow terms for a sinlow France to join with says the main argument against Germany. "That is the game plan, I think ... Britain should say the Maastricht requirements are the bare minimum and there should be no dilution at all. This is a highly dangerous venture. If economies are not in line with one another, it could do damage to jobs, pros-

perity, opportunity. A Treasury source confirmed no one in Whitehall believed the two-year rule would be a bar-

rier to creation of a single currency. Mr Redwood said the single-currency drive was the cause of the riots in France, because it had forced Paris to maintain high interest rates to keep the franc high against the Mark. The single-currency scheme is in crisis. The Exchange Rate Mechanism was meant to be a success and the currencies were meant to be trading together and be comfortable. They are not. Britain is in a very good position to say 'Hold on - let's think this through from first

Mr Major could fulfil his commitment to be at the heart of Europe by arguing with a dis-tinctive view which was different from Germany and France. "Britain has a very positive agenda for jobs and prosperity. That, I am sure, is what the Prime Minister will be putting forward. You don't put yourself

what she wants. a single currency is that it would be a big step on the way to a single European nation. But it would mean higher taxation to cross-subsidise other countries, lead to higher prices, and cause economic disruption.

The Single European Currency, by John Redwood, Tecla Editions in association with Conservative 2000 Foundation, PO Box 7567, London NW3 2LJ

Major to accept EU accord on fighting racism

SARAH HELM

John Major is expected to agree to a compromise package of Europe-wide anti-racism and antisemitism measures, when he meets with his European partners at the Madrid summit this Senior officials are meeting

in Brussels today in an attempt

to hammer out a formula, and diplomats said yesterday that a deal was likely to be ready in time for the summit on Friday. However, further clashes on the subject loom, as the European Commission meets today to discuss its proposals to introduce a separate raft of measures which would outlaw discrimination in all EUlegis-

lation and to declare 1997 "the European year against racism". Last month, Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, caused a furore in Brussels when he vetoed the proposals drawn up within the Council of Ministers, which included calls for all member states to outlaw holocaust denial, as well as uniform laws to ban racist or discriminatory behaviour. Mr Howard shocked other European interior ministers when he lost his temper in a council meeting and accused the rest of 'lecturing" Britain.

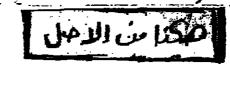
Britain was particularly loath to introduce a new law banning discrimination on the grounds of religion. Religious discrimi-



nation is not at present a basis for criminal action under British anti-racism laws. It now appears that the Gov-

ernment may be ready to accept the EU proposals if clearer language is agreed to ensure that the "intent" to provoke racial hatred is clarified. The compromise forumula is also expected to be less specific about what domestic law changes will be necessary, as a result of EU harmonisation. However, it is still unclear whether Britain will agree to introduce a law banning holocaust denial. Britain's isolation on such a

sensitive issue has proved embarrassing to the Government. Germany, in particular, has expressed anger at the British stand. Chancellor Helmut Kohl is determined to tighten Europe's common action against racism and xenophobia in order to stem the rise of neo-Nazism.



French pilot

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French pilots drama: General Mladic, amid rumours of a trade-off with Paris, toasts the recovery of the men he held captive

'My first thought is for my family'

EMMA DALY

The French pilots released by rebel Serbs fier more than 100 days in captivity walked tentatively to freedom at a motel in a dreary border town yesterday. The senior French general sent to collect them drank plum brandy with the captor - the man who had for weeks refused to acknowledge their existence, the indicted war criminal, General Ratko Mladic.

Limping slightly and squint-ing against the barrage of tele sion lights, Captain Frederic Chiffot and Lieutenant Jose Souvignet told reporters they had been treated "quite well".
Capt Chiffot looked the

worse for wear as the pair emerged from a jeep in the car park of a motel in Zvornik, on the border with Serbia, and Lieutenant Souvignet did most

of the taiking.
"I had some pain in my leg but they had very good doctors," he said. Both men sustained leg injuries while ejecting from their Mirage 2000, shot down over the Serb mountain headquarters, Pale, during Nato bombing raids on 30 August-

"My first thought is for my family," the lieutenant said. "I would like to send them a message, but not with so many people around." General Jean-Philippe Douin, the French army chief-of-staff, was on hand to greet the pair, alongside General Mladic, the Bosnian Serb commander who held them hostage for so long.

The party gathered to drink plum brandy with General Mladic, who looked jovial. In a breath-taking, but wholly characteristic act of cheek,

General Mladic wished the

recovery," he said, "and I wish you to be pilots again, but of planes for peace." As he offered the men apples from a bowl of fruit, the man accused by the UN War Crimes Tribunal of direct responsibility for the murder of thousands of Muslim civilians, added: "This should be a lesson for the future that all problems should be solved

peacefully. The surreal tone was echoed by Colonel Vladimir Kuljis, a Russian sent to aid the pilots' release, who praised General Mladic's "humanity". He said: "I hope the whole world will appreciate this act by the Serbs. Liberation of the French pilots was an act of humanity.

"I hope this will show what kind of people the Serbs are and that this will lead to a better situation."

The pilots, last seen as their parachutes drifted to earth as the jet plunged to the ground in flames, said little about their ordeal Lieutenant Souvignet said the two were kept apart for six weeks in adjoining rooms, but were later allowed exercise. 'Our guards allowed us to

speak to each other now and then," he added. They spoke to their captors in English, then learned a few words of Serbo-Croat. "Not a lot, but enough". Lieutenant Souvignet said. Then we were able to ask for bread and water and our elementary needs.

There had been no news of the pilots since their capture, prompting many Nato officials to give up hope that they would re-surface alive.

In September Paris-Match published photos of the two looking bleary-eyed, held up by Bosnian Serb soldiers and with Fears for their safety grew in October, when Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leader, announced they had been kidnapped by an unknown "Muslim group".

This story was supported by Russian sources who claimed their captors were not under the full control of the leadership. However, given the iron grip of the police in the "Srpska Republic", such a scenario was almost inconceivable.

In mid-November, the International Committee of the Red Cross transmitted a secret message from the Serbian government to officials in Paris, but a spokesman refused to divulge its contents.

French reaction to the loss of the pilots was muted for much of the autumn, amounting to occasional demands for information on their fate. It was only after the Dayton peace agreement that Paris began to threaten unspecified action if the men were not released. Given France's penchant for doing deals in exchange for hostages. there is much speculation about a possible trade-off.

Lieutenant-General Bernard Janvier, the French commander of UN forces in the former Yugoslavia, visited Sarajevo on Monday. But he did not visit UN headquarters, which suggests he was not on UN business. He left for Paris yesterday

Suggestions of trade-offs include a French attempt to improve guarantees for the Serbs in areas of Sarajevo due to revert to government rule, a de-mand by General Mladic that the War Crimes Tribunal drop charges against him and a request that Mr Karadzic, also in-



Dress rehearsal: British Warrior armoured vehicles at target practice near Gornji Vakuf, central Bosnia

Sarajevo Serbs vent rage with futile vote

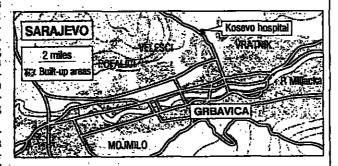
The leadership will claim overwhelming victory, but everyone knows it is a lost cause. Thousands of Serbs living in Sarajevo districts due to revert to government control next year under the Day-ton peace plan turned out yes-terday to issue a resounding "No". The question was: "Are you in favour of Serbian Sarajevo becoming a part of the federation of Bosnia-Herzegovina (Muslim-Croat entity) and coming under federation control?"

"I'm very sure every single per-son registered here will vote in this referendum and I'm convinced all will vote against the Dayton plan," said Milenko Ru-

As president of the electoral commission for polling station No 1, a small room in the municipal building draped in Serbian flags and adorned with a rug bearing the Serbian double-headed eagle, he knows the electorate is well-versed in returning the right result. Referendums on peace-plans have become an annual event in the Srpska Republic, and the correct answer is always

Would the result force the world to change the Dayton plan? He avoided the question, but said Serbs should keep control of their part of the city because the Bosnian President wants an ethnically clean Islamic state" - a rich assertion from an official of a party that specified, from the outset, its desire to kill or expel all non-Serbs.

"If I have to go, I will burn my house and I think every Serb will do the same," Mr Rupar said. Most of his constituents agreed.
"I will burn my house. I have lived here for 18 years and everything I have is here," said Sinisa Srdic, Referendum will not alter peace plan, writes Emma Daly in Grbavica



an 18-year-old student. How did he vote? "For us to stay here", he said. Under government control? "No, not under Muslim authority but under Serb authority."

That option is not on offer. But the answer highlights the confusion amongst many in Grbavica, the only significant Serb area to suffer anything like the misery inflicted on the rest of Sarajevo. "It's a firminy atmosphere here - we are really disappointed and con-fused," said one woman who, like many, did not want her name

"We know what will happen but we just can't believe it." She believes perhaps a third of the population will stay - those population will stay - those braver than herself, as she put it - while the rest will go.

So far there are few signs of people leaving, although the authorities are dismantling and remaining are series.

moving military and industrial equipment. The young woman and her family plan to wait until the last minute, bornified as they are by the idea of moving to Pale, the mountain village "capital" of the Serb republic. Asked where they will go, be open."

blank looks, and vague hopes of a visa to another world. Few consider remaining under govern-ment control, infected as they are by Serb propaganda and un-nerved by the Bosnian leadership's refusal to grant amnesties to soldiers, who include virtually every able-bodied man aged 18

Serbs in Grbavica respond with

Away from the crowd the occasional dissenting voice breaks through. A Serb woman in her early thirties stood in the snow on the Serb side of the Bridge of Brotherhood and Unity, where razor wire, barricades and provocative signs ("Welcome to Srpska Republic") mark the front line. She was standing beside three elderly Muslim women. stranded on the Serb side, awaiting visits from relatives in Sara-

jevo proper.

They had all voted "Yes", they said — until a Serb policeman strolled up. The Serb woman waited until he had passed. "Don't tell anybody, but I think it would be better to live together," she said. "I want the city to



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As Christmas approaches, the Independent is asking readers to support four charities working to help child victims of the wars in former Yugoslavia -Save the Children, the Red Cross, War Child and Child Advocacy International. Aid will be used to remite families, running refugee camps, healing the wounded and bringing 100 sick children to Britain for treatment Donations so far have reached

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France in revolt: Demonstrators march in record numbers, dashing hopes that 'welfare' strikes could be losing momentum

Juppé under threat from renewed protest

MARY DEJEVSKY

Paris and other French cities yesterday witnessed some of their biggest demonstrations in 50 years when hundreds of thousands of people took to the streets to protest against the government's proposed welfare reforms.

The demonstrations, dashing hopes that the welfare protests were running out of steam. were called by two of the major public-sector unions, the Force Ouvrière (FO) and the CGT. They brought together employees from every part of France's diverse public sector, from railwaymen and the staff of public utilities, to hospital workers, teachers, and post and telecommunications staff.

The size of the demonstrations was interpreted by some as a last glorious gesture by the unions, before they agree to settle on terms similar to those proposed in recent days by the Prime Minister, Alain Juppé – a view ruled out absolutely by the leader of the CGT. Louis Viannet. The scale of the turnouts was seen by other commentators as a real threat both to the welfare reforms and to Mr Juppé's survival.

In Marseilles, onlookers and police alike professed to be as-tonished by the 100,000 or more who turned out in the old port, forming the biggest postwar demonstration in the city.

arsenal was blockaded for several hours. All road entrances to the cathedral city of Chartres were manned by pickets handing out campaign leaflets, and delaying traffic into the city. In Paris, where the numbers

were as great, if not greater than in Marseilles, tens of thousands of demonstrators were still waiting to leave the starting point of the procession, at

Place de la République, when the leaders had already arrived

at Nation, two miles away. In scenes replete with revolutionary images, the dense column of marchers, shrouded in smoke from hundreds of bright pink flares, wheeled slowly around the Bastille monument. Waving brightly coloured banners and balloons, they chanted anti-reform slogans. blew horns, beat drums and

& Dixons &

In the naval port of Toulon, the sang folk songs with antigovernment lyrics, or snatches of the Internationale.

People living in a flat overlooking the march route offered a note of encouragement to those waiting below with a notice displayed in their windows announcing the huge turnouts elsewhere: Marseilles: 200,000; Rouen and Toulouse: 80,000; Bordeaux [where Mr Juppé is mayor]: 40,000. Paris – how many?"

The protests, whose size appeared to be totally un-anticipated by the police, came after a weekend in which Mr Juppé has made concession after concession in meeting objections raised by individual sectors. But he has refused absolutely to dilute the core of his welfare reforms which are necessary, among other things, to qualify France for membership of the European single currency from 1999.

The changes are designed to streamline the welfare system, reduce waste and cut a deficit which is currently running at more than Fr60bn a year. They are part of an overall effort by President Chirac and Mr Juppé to cut France's budget deficit to meet the Maastricht conditions for European Monetary Union, but also to modernise France's public sector and bring it into line with other European legislation.

While some trade union officials have said that they believe

MOVIE

Mr Juppé's concessions are significant, rank and file opinion in the public sector seems singularly unmoved - an aspect which the government is likely to find worrying in a protest where the running has been made more by ordinary union

members than by their leaders. In strikes that have remained utterly solid, France has been without any national rail service now for almost three weeks, and Paris and several other major cities have been without all forms of public transport for almost as long. In many places, post, telecommunications. schools and government of-

fices have also been crippled. So far, Mr Juppé has tried to deal separately with the most militant sectors and the most emotive issues. He appointed a mediator to discuss a contentious restructuring plan for the railways, suspended a commission to consider special public-sector pension arrangements, and agreed to meet union representatives.

On Monday he agreed to the social summit" demanded by the unions - but said that it would discuss employment policy generally, as well as publicservice pay and conditions. This immediately provoked a bowl of rage from employers' representatives, who warned Mr Juppé that this was a sure way of extending the dispute into the private sector, something that has, so far, been avoided.



Taking it to the top: A union member enlists a monument to make his point in Marseilles

Spain's Euro-cream turns sour

In the second in a series on the problems of

moving towards monetary union, Elizabeth

The French welfare revolt has set Spain's authorities a-jitter. The Economy Minister, Pedro Solbes, has been trying to reassure everyone that nothing similar could occur this side of the Pyrenees as long as Spain holds to its economic policies. He argues that although the demands of Brussels must be met

for Spain to be in the running for a single currency by 1999, sacrifices can be shared so that no one screams with pain. spending cuts of 900bn pesetas (£4.8bn) over the next year but

gave no indication where they

as in France, pensions, social government inherited when it services and public sector em- came to power in 1982, falls far ployment. Mr Solbes pledged to short of that enjoyed by the

make no cuts in these areas. two important respects. First, the Spanish Socialist government has been achieving budget cuts for years by strenuous He announced this week arm-twisting, accompanied by threats of worse treatment if deals are not reached.

Second, Spain's welfare state, might fall. Obvious targets are, though an advance on what the

Nash reports on the potential pain for Madrid

French. The private sector takes care and pensions which in France or Britain is borne by the state. The idea of a "cradle to grave" state provision is incomprehensible to most Spaniards, who look to the

family to fulfil that responsibility. Mr Solbes insists that Spain apathy into one of revolt.

will meet the EU criteria for a single currency by 1999 and that trends are moving in the right direction. But Spain fails all the Maastricht criteria and Brussels fears it may not catch up in time.

Failure to meet the 1999 deadline would a crushing blow Spain differs from France in much of the burden of health for a nation that views EU membership as the seal upon its existence as a modern democracy. But for millions of Spaniards, especially the unemployed, the European dream has already turned sour; further welfare cuts could tip the present mood of cynicism and



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Violence stalks the candidates in Russian poll

PHIL REEVES

elections. But in Russia, where bloodshed and politics go hand in hand, it is depressingly

Mr Beryozkin, who is running for a seat in Moscow, claims to have been approached by a man offering to kill or main his political opponents. The man had a price list: a car "crash" would set a client back \$7,000 (£4,500); bomb attacks could be arranged for only \$15,000.

Given recent events, it is possible the would-be assassin. or others of his ilk, has picked up some business. For the elections to the State Duma, or lower house, are spawning a list of incidents - shootings, bombings, mysterious accidents - that would more commonly be associated with a remote, timpot

dictatorship.
At the weekend, Vitaly Savitsky, who led the Christians of Russia faction, became the third candidate to die on the campaign trail in less than three weeks. His chauffeur-driven car collided with a Mercedes in St Petersburg when he was returning from a radio interview. Police said it was an accident, typical of the icy winter conditions in the northern city, his

colleagues said it was murder. people turned out for a funer-

his home in Chelyabinsk, where he was a candidate for the government-backed Our Home Is In any advanced and stable Russia party. Nor has there yet democracy, Grigory Beryozkin's been any conclusive explanation why someone pumped a bullet into the head of Sergei Markidonov, 34, a deputy campaignwhy someone pumped a bullet into the head of Sergei Marki-donov, 34, a deputy campaign-ing for re-election, while he was in a hotel room in the Siberian city of Petrov-Zabaikalsky on 26

November.
There have been other puzzling incidents. A liberal par-liamentarian, Anatoly Shabad, of the Russia's Choice faction, is in hospital for injuries after being run over by a car in Moscow while he was crossing the street. A week ago a powerful explosion wrecked the office of an extreme right-wing deputy inside the Russian par-liament building, without caus-ing serious injuries. Police in the Caucasus are investigating an in-cident in which an independent candidate's car ended up being blasted by bullets.

It will be a while before Russians know which of these incidents were the result of bad luck and which were caused by mafia feuding, political skulduggery, or other factors. But they are enough to spur the Russian Interior Ministry into action: it has pledged to flood the streets with police to prevent further bloodshed before the elections. A few dozen oil workers and

their families in two villages in Russia's far north began a hunger strike yesterday to de-mand decent living conditions On Monday, thousands of and pay. In the Moscow region, two dozen coal miners continal in the Ural mountains for ued an underground hunger Mikhail Lezhrev, who was mys-teriously shot to death outside ilar demands.

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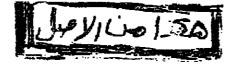
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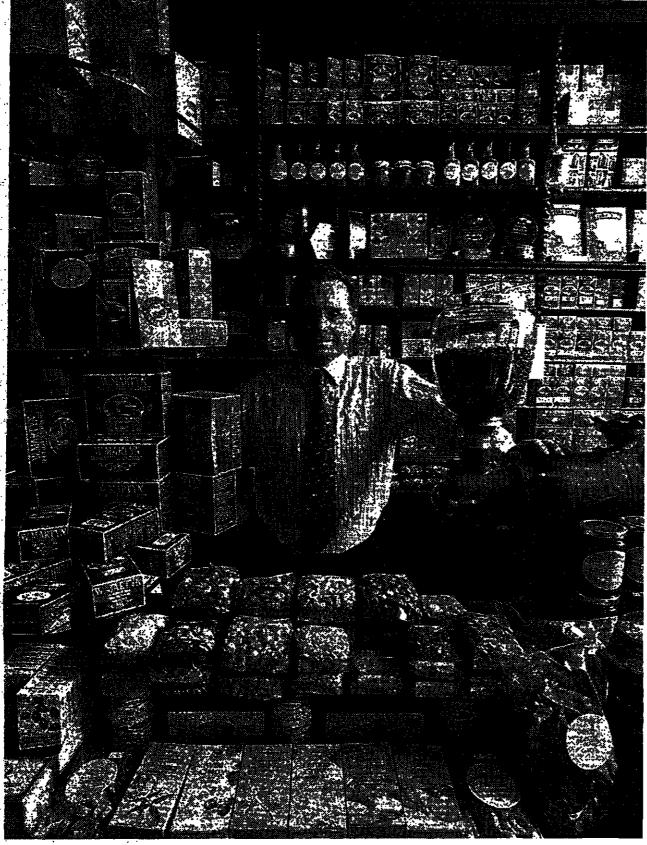
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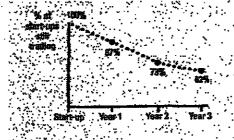


Should a bank charge a small business?

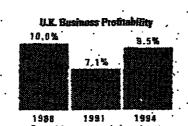


The facts:

MITTE SOU



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3. They understand my business	40%
4. Willing to provide finance	35%



What you said:

"Banks should be helping us, not trying to destroy us." H. Lilley of Lincoln
"As a small business, we find the charges banks impose quite difficult to meet." M. Cassidy of Blackburn



"Banks have to make money somehow

— better to do it through businesses than through individuals." K. Miller of Avlasford

will help a small business." D. Clark of Weybridge



their money – I wouldn't print their business cards for nothing."

M. Hinson of Wellingborough"I have yet to find a bank that

The independent view:



"Of course, cost is the overriding concern of business customers, but we've actually found that business people are prepared to pay for an efficient banking service. In return, they want banks to explain

exactly what the charges are for, and to assure them that they're not subsidising free banking

for personal account holders. At the FPB, we believe that written contracts, setting out the whole relationship, would be a good way forward. Both sides have a respon-

"Banks need in explain exactly what the charges are lot." Step Meridian Chipt Executive Forum of Projects Business

sibility to improve relations: customers should be more willing to share management and financial information. And banks, in turn, should reward those customers with improved margins and charges."

Our conclusions:

A bank is not only a service provider, it's a business, and as such has to make money. Charges really do vary between banks, and for the last five years our small business tariff has been the lowest among the high street banks. We've recognised that people are more tolerant about bank charges if they know exactly what they're for.

That's why we explain our charges beforehand: our policy is to charge fairly with no surprises. We've also recognised that banks have a responsibility to help businesses at their most fragile stage, which is normally their first year. So we're offering twelve months' free banking to new businesses, whether they're in credit or debit.



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West Bank withdrawal: Palestinian joy is mixed with wariness as occupiers quit Nablus

Arabs rejoice as Israelis pull out

Nablus

"Everybody was caught by sur-prise," says Husam Khader, one of Palestinian leaders in Nablus, as he describes the final moments of the Israeli withdrawal from his city. The Israeli forces pulled out 24 hours ear- combat soldiers armed with asly, apparently in the hope of preg last-minute clashes with

local Palestinian stone throwers. came disastrously unstuck. Is- housed in a large dirty cream raeli radio prematurely an- building. Apart from an old nounced late on Monday evening that its troops were pulling out that night. "Some of our boys went down to the military headquarters looking for a fight," said Mr Khader. There were still about 50 Israeli

border guards. I called all my friends to tell our people with guns to go there there and get them out. We escorted them to the nearest Israeli checkpoint." By yesterday morning the

1,200 police of the Palestinian Authority were fully in control. They are, in fact, not police, but sault rifles and in full military uniform. Units in green berets ocal Palestinian stone throwers. were carrying mattresses into the old Israeli headquarters, wooden chair on which a bored soldier had carved his name in Hebrew, the building was scraped clean. Even the washing bowls in the lavatory were smashed and somebody had defecated on the floor.

The Israeli withdrawal from Nablus, the largest city on the West Bank with a population of 130,000, is the critical moment in implementation of the Oslo accords. In Jerusalem a senior Israeli official said: "We can never go back in." The escalation of violence by the Israeli ex-treme right, which culminated in the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin, the prime minister, on 4 November, came because they believed the pullout from cities like Nablus made a Palestinian state inevitable.

In a villa built into the side of the mountain overlooking Nablus, Mahmoud Aloul, the new Palestinian governor, complains that the departing Israelis "destroyed the telephone lines and electricity supply in their



Palestinians dancing and cheering in Nablus yesterday to celebrate the early end of Israeli military occupation

headquarters". He cannot move in until they are repaired. Born in Nabhis, he was jailed for four years in 1967, a few months after Israel captured the city in the Six Day War. He was then deported for 24 years, but helped

organise the intifada in the city from abroad. Two months ago

he came back. The mood of Palestinian leaders in the city swings between exhilaration at being in

extent of their gains, since Israeli Nevertheless, Sami Musallum. head of the office in Jericho of Yasser Arafat, the PLO chairman, looked quietly triumphant

him through the gates of Jueid prison, which used to hold be-tween 850 and 1,000 prisoners. He said: "Some people want to use it once again as a hospital, but I think it should turn it into a museum. This is where our freedom fighters were held and

Mr Khader, 34, is the leader of Fatah, the main Palestinian political organisation, among the 16,000 people in Balata refugee camp, just south of Nablus. People believe in the Oslo agreement because they are seeing some results on the ground," he said. "But this is not enough, because we have only a little bit of our lauds." The refugees in Balata, who fled from Jaffa and Lod in Israel in 1948, are disappointed that Oslo does not do anything to win them back their homes. Fatah activists like Mr Khader are also angry that Mr Arafat is preferring notable families and PLO politicians from abroad in

be held on 20 January.

Palestinian Council, which is to

rain and the crash of Israeli jets breaking the sound barrier overhead, most of the population was celebrating. People brought their children to look at the deserted rooms of the military beadquarters and central police stations, both now decorated with Palestmian flags. After expressing his reservations about the partial nature of the Israeli withdrawal and the lack of democracy in Fatah, Mr Khader, a hardened intifada leader, said: "I cried when I saw

dom is freedom. Washington — Israel's Prime Minister, Shimon Peres, addressing a joint meeting of Congress, issued an emotional appeal to President Hafez al-Assad of Syria to join him in building a new peaceful Middle East, Reuter reports. But in his two-day visit to Washington, a wary electorate at home has prevented Mr Peres from saying the words Damascus wants to hear. the election to the 82-member full Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Golan Heights.

the Israelis leave, because free-

Damascus gave a cautious wel-There were few signs of these doubts on the streets of Nablus yesterday. Despite drenching break the deadlock.

Haiti: where a human life is worth 5p

PHIL DAVISON Saint Marc, Haiti

I've seen someone shot over a

Frank Norbury, a staff sergeant in the United States Army Special Forces, had just helped to quell a near-riot in a village 60 miles north of the capital, Port-an-Prince. He was talking about the incident that sparked the riot: the shooting of a bus conductor by an offduty policeman over a single gourde, the Haitian unit of cur-

rency, worth about 5p. Celestin Nene, the 26-yearold conductor on the gaily-painted tap-tap bus had asked the officer of the new UStrained Haitian National Police for the standard 13-gourde fare. The policeman, 20-year-old Revelus Kender, refused to give him more than 12. An ar-gument ensued. Kender hauled the conductor on to the village's main street and fired at him on

the ground. When we arrived minutes later, hundreds of villagers were demanding justice, burning tyres, barricading the main street and yelling abuse at ner-vous Honduran troops of the UN peace-keeping force. "You're protecting a murderer.
Go home," they screamed.
Sgt Norbury and US Special
Forces Captain Garth Estadt,
dripping with survival and com-

bat gear, had arrived to help keep an angry mob from storm-ing the local police station, where Kender had fled. It might have been just another shooting in Haiti but it was the sort of spark the Hait-ian authorities and their US and UN protectors fear could ignite serious disturbances in the runup to Sunday's presidential

The fledgling police force has already been criticised for a series of trigger-happy incidents (and the fact that it still includes members of the hated, militaryled former security forces).

A group of 88 from 2 Battalion, 3 US Special Forces, is playing a key role in remote ar-eas of central and northern the time. But this is the first time

Haiti, patrolling rugged terrain

Tve seen someone shot over a in 4-wheel drives, on mountain motorbikes and even on horseback. Despite the angry red graffiti of "Yankees, Dirty Dogs, Pigs" on Saint Marc village walls, the US troops are gen-erally well-received. The graffiti may have been painted by those who accuse the

Special Forces of siding with Haiti's former military or militia chiefs against President Jean-Bertrand Aristide's leftist government.

An underground American publication called The Resister and claiming to be "the official publication of the Special Forces underground," recently reported that Special Forces in Haiti were working with ousted Haitian officers and members of the disbanded militia known as the FRAPH or Front for the Advancement

and Progress of Haiti.
Sgt Norbury, 38, and an 18year Special Forces veteran,
denied it. "Not in this area. Maybe somewhere else." But his theory as to the role of American and UN troops here reflected the feelings of many of his colleagues.

"We're just like a temporary wind blowing through here.
While we're here, they can
sleep at night. We're basically
their security blanket. But
democracy's not for everybody.
Haitings are pring to cohe Haitians are going to solve their problems the Haitian way. Always did, and always will. Their way has always been vig-ilante justice.

The bottom line is that if Haitians hadn't been reaching our shores on leaky boats, we wouldn't be here. Soon we'll be

You can only keep a life-sup-port system going so long then you have to pull the plug. When we leave here, our only legacy will be the empty MRE (food rations) packets we leave behind," the sergeant said.

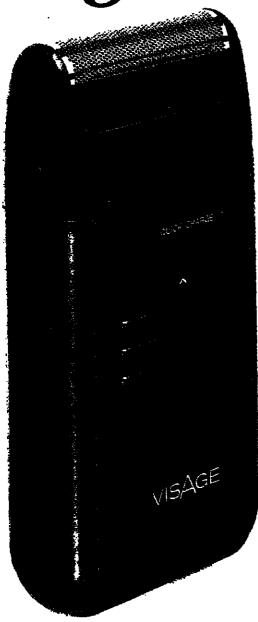


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Cry for justice: Mother wrongly convicted of her daughter's murder returns to court to end 15-year ordeal 'Dingo baby' saga may be laid to rest

ROBERT MILLIKEN

After 15 years, several false conclusions and enough media hype to rival the OJ Simpson case, Australia's most celebrated mystery, the disappearance of Azaria Chamberlain, the "dingo baby", may be resolved

Azaria's parents, Lindy and Michael Chamberlain, have asked a coroner's court to clear them of any involvement in the disappearance of their nine week old daughter in 1980. Now divorced, the Chamberlains are expected to attend the court in Darwin today when the coroner delivers his verdict.

Azaria vanished from a tent at Ayers Rock camping ground in the Northern Territory during a family holiday. The Chamberlains insisted that a dingo, a wild Australian dog, had snatched the child, and Azzria's body has never been found.

In 1982, after a frenzy of speculation, two coroner's inquiries, and a trial at which forensic witnesses mounted a circumstantial case against the parents, Mrs Chamberlain was found guilty of murdering her daughter and received a life sentence. Her husband was convicted as an accessory and was released on a good-behaviour bond. The Crown had not put forward a motive for the crime.

When a British tourist fell to his death while climbing Ayers Rock in 1986, rangers sent to retrieve his body found Azaria's matinée jacket lying near by. Mrs Chamberlain had always

maintained that Azaria was wearing such a jacket when she disappeared. With the discovery of this vital clue, the Northern Territory Government released Mrs Chamberlain and set up a Royal Commission to determine if the Chamberlains had been victims of a miscarriage of justice.

The commission found that a jury would not have convicted them if this evidence had been available. In 1988, the Northern Territory Court of Appeal quashed their convictions: The first inquest, in 1981,

found that a dingo had taken the child. A second inquest, called in 1982 after criticism of the Northern Territory authorities, concluded that Azaria was murdered by a person or persons unknown. That second finding technically still stands, despite the Royal Commission's establishment of a miscarriage of justice. It is this finding that the Chamberlains have requested the coroner to set aside, and to conclude that Azaria died accidentally after a dingo took her.

Three years ago, the North-ern Territory government paid the couple £620,000 in compensation, but has never offered them a formal apology. They have also received £120,000 from Kerry Packer, the media magnate, for exclusive magazine and television interviews, as well as undisclosed fees for A Cry in the Dark, the film version of their story starring Meryl Streep and Sam Neill.

But the Chamberlains claim that the money barely covered their legal bills.



Innocent: Lindy Chamberlain (left) has requested that the death of Azaria (right) be ruled accidental. The verdict is expected today Photographs: AP



INBRIEF Café blast kills

11 in Algeria

Algiers — A car bomb exploded yesterday not far from Algeria's largest military hospital. killing 11 people and wounding 35 others. The explosion occurred at a cafe frequented by military personnel from the hospital, security sources said. It was not immediately known whether soldiers or army health-care workers were among the victims. There was no immediate claim of responsibility, but suspicion fell on the Armed Islamic Group, the most radical of the Islamic militant factions trying to topple Algeria's government.

Rwandans dismayed

Kieali - Rwandans reacted with dismay vesterday after an international tribunal investigating last year's genocide indicted only eight people for the laughter of up to one million minority Tutsis and moderate Hutus, Information Minister Jean-Pierre Bizimana said that his government was not satisfied with the first indictments announced by the tribunal's Chief Prosecutor Richard Goldstone in the northern Tanzanian town

PM fighting for life

Athens - Greek premier Andreas Papandreou was fighting for his life in hospital after developing a new infection. A hospital bulletin said that Papandreou, 76, had been given a wide range of antibiotics, but had been taken off the respirator which had helped his breathing throughout Monday night.

Kohl escapes bomb

Bonn — A letter bomb addressed to Chancellor Helmut Kohl blew up in an eastern German post office, federal authorities said yesterday. No one was injured and there was no damage.

Manila on alert

Manila — Manila police were put on red alert after a left-wing death squad killed a prominent industrialist and a five-yearold boy in what President Fidel Ramos said was a declaration of war on the state. Leonardo Tv. 82, and five-year-old Jeremy Tay Jin Han from Singapore were among four people killed in three ambushes on Monday. The attacks, blamed on the Alex Boncayao Brigade (ABB). all involved targets from the Philippines wealthy Chinese business community, which is frequently the victim of kidnappers. Renter

China's most outspoken dissident faces jail once more

TERESA POOLE

It was November 1978, when posters started appearing on a brick wall in central Peking demanding political reform, that marked the birth of the

"Democracy Wall" movement. Within months, a young electrician from the zoo, Wei Jingsheng, had made his mark as an outspoken contributor: "We want no more gods and emperors, no more saviours of any kind," he wrote. "Democracy,

freedom and happiness are the only goals of modernisation." By March 1979 Mr Wei had been arrested, and later that year was sentenced in a closed court to 15 years for "counter-

revolutionary" activities.

These days the brick wall is long demolished and the pavement is lined instead by a government "Science Popularation" exhibition. Glass-fronted exhibition panels exiol the achievements of Chinese women scientists - propaganda left over from Peking's biggest

ever international event, the World Women's Conference in the autumn.

Peking's skyline and China's global status have been transformed by 16 years of economic reform. But some things have not changed. In the city's No 1 Intermediate People's Court this morning, a trial will open with Mr Wei, 46, now accused of trying to overthrow the government Since March

prison term. Nor, despite a court spokesman's promise that the trial would be "open", have any ordinary Chinese, foreign diplomats or journalists been given passes to attend

Mr Wei's trial will again put the international spotlight on China's judicial system and the government's intolerance of The name Wei does not stick

in the memory of Westerners in 1979 he has spent only six the way Mandela and Sakharov months out of jail, and today is once did, although he is often likely to receive another long, dubbed the country's "most

famous" dissident. But he has been a constant thorn in the side of the Chinese government for almost two decades.

Mr Wei has an unlikely counter-revolutionary background. He came from a family of Mao loyalists in Anhui province, and was a Red Guard before going to work as an electrician in the Peking Zoo. When the political climate thawed in 1978, he edited a journal called Exploration, and

quickly embraced the Democ-

racy Wall movement.

without political reform. "The people must maintain vigilance against Deng Xiaoping's metamorphosis into an autocrat." Mr Wei wrote, prompting his immediate arrest and heavy sentence, much of it spent in solitary confinement.

of democracy, he bluntly re-

jected Deng Xiaoping's policy

of economic modernisation

It was not until September 1993 that Mr Wei left prison, released on parole by the government in the hope of winning

As well as being an advocate the 2000 Olympics for Peking. He immediately renewed his call for democracy and insisted he would not escape abroad. His robust opinions showed no sign of having been weakened by his prison experience. It was his decision to meet a

senior US government human rights official. John Shattuck. which terminated his new-found freedom. Soon after, on 1 April 1994. Mr Wei was detained, and has not been seen since. Today he may well disappear again, for a very long time.

Mark .

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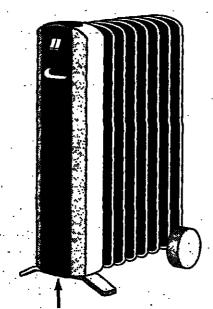
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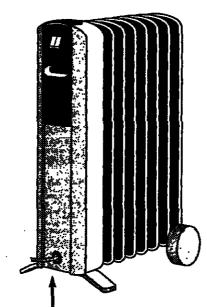
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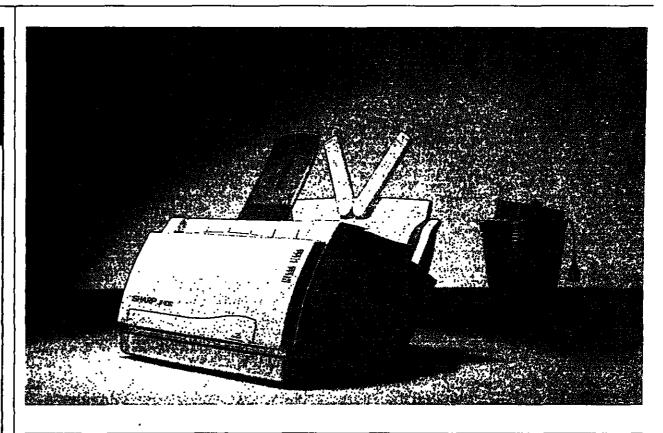
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Professor

Gillian Rose

Rose's last bequest.

Gillian Rose, who will take her

place in the lineage of great Jew-

ish women thinkers and of

great British Hegelians, lived a

life of astonishing philosophic

eros and intensity, culminating in her masterpiece The Broken Middle (1992) and her remark-

able autobiographical fragment Love's Work (1995), which

In New York and Germany she

received her training in the

traditions of Hegel and the

Frankfurt school. Her pub-

series of positions with great

consistency right to the end.

Rose: the broken middle

In Hegel Contra Sociology (1981) she demonstrated how

ociology remained confined

state, nature from freedom.

More precisely than Marx, Heg-el grasped how modernity itself

is also fated to transgress,

structuralists remained within

the same confinement, reduc-

imposition of power, and the

universal to the absolutely in-

middle", or our necessary, ir-

universal and particular, the one

and the many. Since we are al-

ways "in the middle" we cannot

determine the universe once

and for all even as an antino-

mian lack of rule, nor can we de-

termine the particular abstractly

as the "sheerly different" or "the

In The Broken Middle (1992).

written after her transfer from

Sussex University to a Chair in

Social and Political Thought at

Warwick, this claim is set forth

in detail, and extended into a

critique of more "holy" versions

absolutely other".

Arthur Mullard

The growling cockney Arthur drama The Captive Heart (1946, Mullard took his 6ft 2in bulk starring Michael Redgrave) and and bashed-in nose from the professional boxing ring to television screens and found his greatest fame as he was approaching retirement. Acting achieve and, after several decades as an extra in films and a feed to television comics such as Tony Hancock and Arthur Gilliat comedy The Belles of St Askey, he found it playing a scrounger called Wally Briggs in the situation comedies Romany Jones and Yus My Dear.

Born in 1912 in an area of Islington that he described as the hardest in all of London. Mullard had no fond memories of "the good old days", "I never think of my childhood with nostalgia," he said. "Anyone of my age who says he does is deceiving himself. They weren't good old days at all. Whatever else change has brought, it means people aren't so poor any more." He had four brothers, one of whom died in infancy.

Mullard left school at 14 with a report that said: "This boy is a born actor." However, facing opposition from his father, he started work as a butcher's boy, and later signed up for the Army. By the time he left three years later, he had found a new talent as a boxer and was the champion of his regiment.

Back in civvy street, he turned professional in the ring but threw in the towel, after three years and 20 fights, when he was knocked out and lost his memory. He then worked as a dance-hall bouncer, rag-andbone man and even an artist's model, until called up for the Second World War. As a sergeant-major in the Royal Artillery, ideas of acting returned to him. "Drilling troops and just being in the Army was like acting to me," he recalled. "It was all an act."

Once peacetime came he looked for an agent and was soon appearing in films as an extra and stuntman, changing his name from Mullord to Mullard because everyone thought he was addressing a peer of the realm when he said it.

He made his debut in the Second World War prison-camp

appeared - mostly uncredited - in several dozen pictures, including Oliver Twist (the classic 1948 version starring Alec Guinness), the Oscar-winning success took him 30 years to The Lavender Hill Mob (again starring Alec Guinness, 1951), The Pickwick Papers (1952), the Frank Launder-Sidney Trinian's (1954), the Boulting Brothers' comedy Brothers in Law (starring Ian Carmichael, 1956), The Loneliness of the Long-Distance Runner (starting Tom Courtenay and directed by Tony Richardson, 1962), the cockney comedy Sparrows Can't Sing (based on the Joan Littlewood stage play Sparrers Can't Sing, 1962), the James Bond spoof Casino Royale (1967) and the television spin-off Holiday on the Buses (1973). In Chity Chitty Bang Bang (1968), billed simply as Big Man, Mullard was the victim of the automatic haircutting machine, which left him almost bald; the creation of a cranky inventor played by Dick Van Dyke. His last film appearance was in Adventures of

> By the mid-Fifties, Mullard was in demand both in films and the relatively new medium of television. When Tony Hancock moved from radio to television with Hancock's Half Hour (1956-63), Mullard became a regular member of the supporting cast, playing everything from policemen to dustmen, alongside John Le Mesurier, Hugh Lloyd, Irene Handl, Warren Mitchell and Kenneth Williams. The programme, scripted by Ray Galton and Alan Simpson, extended the boundaries of television comedy writing and marked a highpoint in the genre.

Plumber's Mate (1978).

Mullard worked with another comic great, Arthur Askey, in The Arthur Askey Show (1961), a six-part sitcom set in 1910 and featuring Askey and June Whitfield as Arthur Pilbeam and his snooty wife Emily, with Mullard and Patricia Hayes playing their neighbours,

By now established in situation comedy, Mullard took the



'it was all an act': Mullard with the Marvell Lane Boys Club, London, on a 'sponsored gaol-break' from Wood Street police station, 1979

role of Chippy in Vacant Lot (1967), a series written by Jeremy Lloyd and Jimmy Grafton, which featured the actors Bill Fraser and Alfie Bass running the works of Bendlove and Bodium, builders, decorators, cabinetmakers, funeral directors and cab-drivers.

Switching to children's programmes, Muliard played a jack of all trades in On the Rocks (1969), set in a television station, Seaview Television, transmitting from a lighthouse to the residents of Mumbling Bay and Kipper Cove.
But Mullard's most famous

television character was the layabout Wally Briggs, first featured in a single play called Ro-many Jones in 1972, which then returned for four series (1973-74), with Queenie Watts playing his wife Lily. Briggs was an army deserter and a scrounger, who stole from allotments. The programme, with theme music by Roger Whittaker and writers who included the duo of Ronald Wolfe and Ronald Chesney, also starred James Beck and Jo Rowbottom as the Briggs' equally workshy neighbours in a caravan park. After Beck's death, this couple were

replaced by Jonathan Cecil and Seventies television game show Gay Soper, as a posh husband and wife in the adjacent caravan. Cecil had previously worked with Mullard in one of his rare stage appearances, in The Silent House (1970), at the Thorndike Theatre, Leather-head, in which he played a

cat-burglar-turned-butler.

Mullard and Watts's Romany Jones characters were then transplanted by Wolfe and Chesney to a council house and their own programme, Yus My Dear, which ran for two series in 1976. Wally Briggs was by this time earning good mon-ey as a bricklayer on a building site but struggling to hold on to it, with both his wife Lily and his brother Benny - played by another cockney comic, Mike Reid - trying to get their hands on it.

Capitalising on his stardom, Mullard teamed up in 1978 with the comedienne Hylda Baker to record a spoof version of John Travolta and Olivia Newton's hit "You're the One That I Want", from the film Grease. The single made the Top 30 and the pair even appeared on Top of the Pops. The actor was also a regular guest on the

"He's funnyl" And indeed he was - Arthur's "imperson Celebrity Squares. Mullard's wife, Flo, did not ations" were the high-point of live to see him find fame. She

died from an overdose of sleep-He would announce solemn-"Now here is my impression ing tablets in 1961 after sufferof the late laminated Charles ing from polio and meningitis, Laughton in The Hunchback of well as mental illness. Earlier this year, Mullard Notre Dame!" Whereupon he was still working, on voiceovers for commercials, and continued would turn his back and make a series of elaborate arm moveto live in a council maisonette ments to suggest that his face was being utterly transformed. in his native Islington. He wrote an autobiography, Oh Yus, It's Arthur Mullard, which was pub-lished in 1977. Although he He would then turn around again looking exactly the same and declaim, needless to say, in his own voice: "The bells! The bells! They're drivin' me lived to the age of 83, Mullard always bemoatted the fact that bleedin' mad!' it took so long for him to find

Also treasured is his uncanny recreation of "That well-known Swedish bint - Greeta Garbo!" After the same preamble he would bellow "I want to be alone. So piss off!"

One of the BBC satire shows cast him equally memorably in the role of Gertrude Stein, his "A rose is a rose is a bleedin' rose" brought down the house

Arthur Mullord (Arthur Mullard). actor: born London 19 Septem-

first reaction was negative in the extreme. "But he's not an impressionist!" we wailed. "Who ber 1912; married (two sons, one by Kantian assumptions: rigid pressionist!" we wailed. "Who daughter); died London 11 cares?" snapped Scoffield. December 1995. divisions of a priori from a pos-

Lavinia Norfolk

Your obituary of Lavinia, Duchess of Norfolk [by Richard Griffiths, 12 December] paid tribute to her career on the turf. She and the late Duke were also closely involved in many great moments in British ceremoni-

stardom. The tragedy of my life is, I was born 20 years too

Twenty years ago, writes Dick

Vosburgh, Barry Cryer, Peter Vincent and I were writing the

all-impersonations television

series Who Do You Do? The

show's director/producer Jon Scoffield suddenly told us he'd

booked Arthur Mullard. Our

Anthony Hayward

early", he said.

In 1937 she was one of the four duchesses who held the canopy over Queen Elizabeth (now the Queen Mother) at her sacred anointing. Of these only Mary Roxburghe now survives. In 1953 she spent days rehearsing aspects of the present Queen's Coronation as her stand-in. I once interviewed the Duchess and all she said was "I wore what she wore". But in the 1993 Yorkshire Television documentary Days of Majesty

I had to be ready to come to the abbey every single morning at about half past nine, 10 o'clock. I had to take the part of the Queen. So whoever was rehearing, they always had something to do with what the Queen was dong... The crown it-self was very heavy and one had to make sure that it fitted absolutely

she was more forthcoming:

one's hands were full of other things and it felt like falling off the whole time, so you had to tell whoever was putting it on to put it on a little bit forward or a little bit back.

When the Queen placed the collar of the Order of the ders in June 1990, it was not. therefore, the first time that she had worn one. The Duchess was the first Lady Companion of the Order and duly took her place in the procession, wearing a long Garter blue dress under robes. Unfortunately she tripped in the quire at the 1992 ceremony, suffering a much publicised nosebleed. She did not appear again.

The Duchess was a safe establishment choice for the first Lady of the Garter, meaning that Baroness Thatcher followed in her wake rather than setting a precedent.

When the Duke was alive, since he was Senior Knight, they would get into car no 1 for the return ride up the hill. When she ioined the Order, she had to wait her turn and enter car no 23, the penalty of membership

At a quarter past six last Sat-urday evening, a motley group of ex-lovers, philosophers, the-"totalisations For Gillian Rose this neologians, family, graduate students and friends arrived at Coventry Hospital to winess the glect of the moment of universality is tantamount to a false attempt to heal the "brokenreception of Gillian Rose into

ness" of the middle. For while the Anglican Church. As it she denounced a facile Kantian turned out, they were hours late resignation to dualisms, she equally insisted that these dufor this event, and 10 minutes too late ever to talk with her alisms were essential to the again. At a christening party that modern state and modern econwas now also a wake, they lisomy, and could never be mere. tened, numbed, as the Bishop ly thought away in abstraction. of Coventry read to them lines To try to do so is to remain "a of Dante's Paradiso, which were beautiful soul", to doom oneself always to accentuate only one The extraordinary orchesside of the divide - ethics tration of events, magnetism, against law for example failure and triumph beyond and so to contribute to the failure evident in this death, inworsening of our predicament. Instead - and here Rose's retegrated it seamlessly into a life.

to a pure ahistorical respect for

the other in opposition to all

alism places her on the side of a radical social democracy - one must persist with and defend those flawed institutions which resist our modern fractures between public and private trade unions, local government, the civil service, the teamed professions of arts, law, architecture, education and medicine. This passionately espoused

resistance to both modest pur-

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brought her work to the attention of a larger audience.
The child of multiple marital confusions, Rose was born in 1947 and passed through Ealing Grammar School to Oxford. ism (the market) and antimodernist Utopian resistance, is then upheld within The Broken Middle by an entire existential credo: one is to trust reason, even though it is without foundations and partial. Hence reason must be conlished work then developed a joined with faith, faith even in the rationality of an infinite which must elude our grasp. faith therefore in perhaps a full religious sense. Such reason with faith allows us to take the risk of action, which is always a risk of power and even of violence against the other. For without such risk there can be no generosity and no exercise of desire, whether for ideas or

the goodness of persons. Gillian Rose's own life was full to bursting with such risk, such generosity, such eros, pow-er and violence. She did not escape the taint of ambiguity, but then her own credo refuses such escape and demands that we interrogate with suspicion apparently more untainted goodness.

She bequeaths us difficulties and mysteries. The thinker who denounces the modern Jewish teriori, law from ethics, public retreat from law in the name of from private, the economic the formalism of love was finally from the political, church from led to embrace Christianity. We can be sure that this embrace was both difficult and dialectical, and reflect on such matters as the Incarnation of produced these divisions which God in history, and the Protessince they are contradictory. In Dialectic Nihilism (1986), tant acceptance of the contradictory intersection of church and state, individual piety and she tried to show bow postpublic duty. An avowal perhaps, of an inescapably modern mode who denounced any premature or even absolute healing of the different. She contends that middle, in her last, as yet unpost-structuralism and postpublished writings, which take a more "Platonic" turn, demodernism do not truly refuse origins and ends, but rather "the nounces the post-modern enthroning of postponement, and denial of any consummation. resolvable hesitation between At the threshold of her own,

eternal consummation, Gillian Rose leaves us to reflect further on the conditions, both political and metaphysical, under which healing may at last supersede rupture.

John Milbank

Gillian Rosemary Stone (Gillian Rose), philosopher: born London 20 September 1947; Lecturer/ Reader in Sociology, Sussex Uni-versity 1974-89; Professor of Social and Political Thought, Warwick University 1989-95; died

John Gillett

John Gillett was one of the best- sist them in their research. He rector Yasujiro Ozu was crucial known personalities on the world's film festival circuit both National Film Theatre films in Japan at a critical time as a critic/programmer and as a friend to countless film
a friend to countless film
1967 he reintroduced Buster But Gillett' makers, established or un- Keaton to British audiences, cinema showed itself in many awe because of his extraordinary knowledge of world cinema. Gillett was a walking encyclopaedia of film knowledge, whether it be the correct spelling of the cameraman's name in the Albanian/Soviet coproduction Skanderberg or the name of an actor in a lesser Japanese feature.

Gillett was born in Ealing, west London, in 1925. After business college he worked on a local newspaper until his deep interest in film secured him a job at the British Film Academy in the days of Roger Manvell. It was Manvell who in November 1952 introduced him to the British Film Institute where he remained for over 44

vears. Even in those early days staff and visitors alike relied on Gillett's film knowledge to asbecame a regular contributor to to his obtaining funding for his

rospectives on the work of such film-makers as Billy Wilder, John Ford and Satyajit Ray. He became a regular collaborator on numerous seasons, respected for his accuracy - for which his name was a byword. "Has this text been checked with John?" became a routine question.

John Gillett will be remembered best for his passion for Japanese cinema, reflected in season upon season at the NFT since 1982. In June 1995 he received the double honours of appointment as MBE and the Japanese order of the Sacred Treasure, Gold Rays with Rosette, an award offered to few foreigners. It was Gillett who had been largely responsible for creating an awareness of Japanese film history in Britain. His

championing of the Japanese di-

But Gillett's interest in world

edge: early Russian and Georgian cinema, Hungarian cinema and the work of Hollywood giants of the 1930s and 1940s were other areas of special interest Gillett left no living rela-

tions and few worldly goods. This was not because he couldn't afford them, but rather that they would get in the way of getting to the cinema or his other love, the concert hall. The NFT and the library of the BFI were his home and his worldwide family - critics, filmmakers, writers - was of his own creation.

Gillett was not only intent on ensuring that film information was correct, but he was equally intent in ensuring that films were shown at the right speed, at the right sound level and always in focus. He was the

Births: Maximilien de Béthune, Duc

de Sully, statesman, 1560; William

aond of Hawthornden, poet,

Anniversaries



scourge of faulty film projec-

tionists. The last words he spoke to me at the charming and friendly Silent Film Festival at Pordenoné, in Italy, where he was taken ill, were: "I

thought the live accompaniment to Vertov's Man with a Movie Camera was a trifle loud and that the focus of the Henry King silent feature was Lesley Hardcastle

John Gillett, film critic, programmer and historian: born 28 September 1925; MBE 1995;

right, otherwise it could easily have toppled off. It was so heavy and as of postmodernism, which appeal Coventry 9 December 1995.

Rescission of bankruptcy orders justified

of Appeal (Lord Justice Neill, Lord Justice Millett, Sir Iain Glidewell'): 15 November 1995

A change of attitude of the petitioning creditor to the making of a bankruptcy order, supported by a substantial body of other creditors, justified the

rescission of a bankruptcy The Court of Appeal allowed appeals by the applicants, Anthony Edward Fitch and Janet Margaret Fitch, from Mr Justice Chadwick's refusal

to rescind bankruptcy orders against them. Bankruptcy orders were made against Mr Fitch, a chartered accountant, and his wife. Mr Fitch's statement of affairs showed a deficiency of

some £200,000 against secured liabilities and unsecured liabilites of £60,000. Mr and Mrs Fitch applied for the orders to be rescinded under section 375(1) of the Insolvency Act 1986. The petitioning creditor and many other creditors supported the application, believing that there was a serious risk that the existence of a bankruptcy order against Mr Fitch would prejudice the recovery of a substantial asset for the

Mr Fitch in partnership with to review and rescind or vary from being both new and rel-

LAW REPORT

setting up of a business venture from which they would be entitled to introductory commis-sion of £112,500, £150,000 consultancy fees over a twoyear period and success fees of £811,000 of which £248,890 was already due. Nothing would be paid if the negotiations to set up the venture failed. The creditors were persuaded that the successful completion of the venture depended on Mr and Mrs Fitch not being known to be

Mr Justice Chadwick refused the application on the grounds that the petitioning creditor's change of attitude did not derive from new matters which were not available at the previous hearing and that the application involved the court in approving the deception that Mr Fitch was not a

bankrupt. Anthony Mann QC (Meade-King, Bristol) for Mr and Mrs Fitch; Stephen Moverley (Treasury Solicitor) for the

Lord Justice Millett said that section 375 allowed the court

Mrs Fitch was involved in the a order made by a court of coordinate jurisdiction. It applied to any order made in the exercise of the bankruptcy jurisdiction. An application under section 375 must be based on a change in circumstances since the order was made or, more rarely, on the discovery

of further evidence.

Mr and Mrs Fitch accepted that the bankrupcty orders were rightly made. They based their application on the fact that circumstances had changed. They did not rely on the mere fact that the petitioning creditor had changed its mind, but on the fact that a large body of creditors, including the petitioning creditor, supported the rescission of the bankruptcy orders and that none of the known creditors

opposed it. If that had been the position when the bankruptcy orders were made, the petition would have been dismissed. The fact that the underlying circumstances which led the creditors to support the rescission of the bankruptcy orders had been known at that time did not prevent their change of attitude

the only means of giving effect to the creditors' wishes that the bankruptcies should be discontinued.

There was no evidence from which the judge could proper-ly conclude that Mr and Mrs Fitch intended to embark on a course of deception if the bankruptcy orders were rescinded. Mr Fitch was acting as an intermediary. His own creditworthiness was not directly relevant.

The judge exercised his discretion on an erroneous basis and the court must exercise it itself. The statutory discretion was unlimited. The inquiry on which the court embarked was whether the circumstances justified the rescission of the bankruptcy order, not whether they were sufficiently close to an informal scheme of arrangement. Re Izod [1898] 1 QB 24. as distinguished in Re a debtor (no 12 of 1970) [1971] 1 WLR 1212 did not lay down a rule of law fettering the discretion.

The discretion must be exercised with caution and only in exceptional circumstances. The circumstances in the present case were exceptional and justified the rescission of the or-

Ying Hui Tan, Barrister

Births, **Marriages** & Deaths

BIRTHS

HAYWARD: To Sally and Charles, on 5 December 1995, at Liverpool Women's Hospital, Angus William, a brother for Georgina and Eleanor.

DEATHS

EUSTACE: Ba (née Belloc, 20/1/30), swiftly, in London, 11 December, Re-quiem, Westminster Cathedral Crypt, Monday 18 December, 3pm. No

MARSHALL: David Soul. First Chief Minister of Singapore, died at home in Singapore on Thesday 12 Decem-ber, aged 87 years.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS ROYAL ENGAGENHENTS
The Prince of Wales, Presidents, Business in the Community, visits the Bromley-By-Bow Centre, London E3; visits St. James's Hall, London Ni; hout a reception for the Bristol Cancer Help Centre at St. James's Palace; basis the 10th Auniversary Celebrations of the Community Enterprise Awards at St. James's Palace; as President, the Prince's Yorth Business That, opens the new treat shop in the Ning's Walt Shopping Centre. London SWA; and attends the Urban Wilage Forum Christman Meeting at Leiption House, London W14. The Princess Rayal, President, Anhual Health Turst, attends the Princess Rayal Indestry Committee Air Studies Evening, Air Studies (Caryanish, Lyndhartar Hall, London NW3. Princess Margaret attends a gard concert in rid (Chryselis), Lyndburtz Hall, London NW3-Princies Marguet attends a card connect in sid-of Cancer Reisel Maxaellan Pand at the Gourie Chapel, Wellaugton Berracht, London SW1, The Debt of Glastestire; Patron, the Westminster So-ciety, attends a reception at Marsion House, Lon-don EC2. The Dubt of Bearl, Patron, Leshamin Remarch Fund, wants the Cellular Development Unit, UMST Manachester; should be Manchester Luncheon Ché, Manchester Bown Hall, which Bir-we Brister. Manachester Bown Lind Con-Soon-Princes Michael of Kent, Patron, aftends the SPARKS Bell at the Hilton Hotel, London W1.

Changing of the Guard The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Oocen's Luie Goard at Horse Goards.

Forthcoming

marriages Mr C.D. Donald

tween Colin, eroer son or the Colin Donald, of Stirling, and Mami, daughter of Mr and Mrs Ishio Fudaughter of Mr and Mrs Is iibuchi, of Fukuoka, Japan.

Birthdays The Aga Khan, 59; Sir Terence Beckett, former Director General, CBI, 72; Mr Howard Brenton, play-wright, 53; General Arnold Brown, former leader, Salvation Army, 82: Lord Bullock, historian, 81; Mr Jim Davidson, comedian, 41; Sir Brian Fall, former ambassador to the Russian Federation, 58; Mr John Francombe, broadcaster and former jockey, 43; Mr Walter Guven, chief constable, Wiltshire, 57; Miss Anouskn Hempel, actress, hotelier and designer, 54; Dr Douglas Latto, surgeon and gynaecologist, 82; Mr Robert Lindsay, actor, 46; Professor Sir William McCrea, astronomer, 91; Mr Alec Monk, former chief executive, Tri-Delta Corporation, 53; Sir Brian Pitman, chief executive, Lloyds Bank, 64; Mr Christopher Plummer, actor, 66; Sir Humphrey Prideaux, former chairman, Morland and Co, 80; Sir Robin Renwick, former ambassador to the United States of America, 58; Mr George Shultz, former US Secretary of State, 75: Professor Geoffrey Sinss, former Vice-Chancellor, Sheffield University, 69; Maj-Gen Sir David Thorne, Director-General, Commonwealth Trust, 62; Sir Laurens van der Post, writer and explorer. 89; Mr Dick Van Dyke, actor, 70; General Sir Peter Whiteley, former Commander-in-Chief, Allied Porces

Northern Europe, 75; Miss Paula

and Miss M. Fuilbuchi The engagement is announced be-tween Colin, elder son of Mr and Mrs

1585; Heinrich (Harry) Heine, poet and journalist, 1797; Ernst Werner Siemens, inventor, 1816; Sir Joseph Noel Paton, painter, 1821; Franz Lenbach, painter, 1836; Lucien-Germain Guitry, actor, 1860. Deaths: Maimonides (Moses ben Maimon), philosopher, 1204; Do-natello (Donato de Betto Bardi), sculptor, 1466; François Viete de la Bigotière, advocate and mathematician, 1603; Charles de La Fosse, painter, 1716; The Rev John Strype, ristorian, 1737: Dr Samuel Johnson, lexicographer, 1784; William Cakraft, shoemaker and hangman, 1879; Wassily Kandinsky, abstract painter "Grandma Moses" (Mrs Thomas Salmon Moses), primitive painter, 1961. On this day: the first by of the Council of Trent opened, 1545; Sir Francis Drake left Plymouth on his voyage around the world, 1577; New Zealand was discovered by Abel Janszoon Tasman, 1642; the Confederate forces under Robert E. Lee were victorious at the Battle of Fredericksburg, 1862; in the United States, Italo Marcioni patented the first ice-cream cone, 1903; a spell of extreme cold weather killed over 200 people in the United States, 1960. Today is the Feast Day of St Aubert of Cambrai, St Eustratius of Sebastea, St Judocus or Josse, St Lucy and St Othilia or Odilia.

Lectures National Callery: Colin Wiggins, "Worldly Goods (iii): Eeckhout,

Wilcox, actress, 46; Mr Brian Wilson
MP, 47.

Four Officers of the Amsterdam Coopers' and Wine-rackers' Guild", 1 pm. Tate Gallery: Mary Beal, "Paradise Under Threat: English art of the 1920s", 1pm. British Museum: Jacques Paul,

symbols", 1.15pm. Gresham College, Barnard's Inn Hall, London EC2: Professor Susan Greenfield, "Brainwaves", 1pm.

Appointments Mr Peter Marshall, to be Ambassador to the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria. Mr Michael Llewellyn Smith, to be Ambassador to Athens. Mr John Edward O'Hare, to be full-time Taxing Master. Mr Shamoon Somjee, to be a Met-ropolitan Stipendiary Magistrate.

Mrs Justice Arden, to be chairman of the Law Commis Professor Alan Watson, to be Deputy Chairman of the English-Speaking Union. Mr Charles Barwell, Baroness Hoop-

er, Baroness Smith and Mr Peter

Sparling, to be Governors of the English-Speaking Union. Church appointments The Ven Michael Stanley Till, Archdeacon of Canterbury and Canon Residentiary of Canterbury

Canon Christopher HIL, Canon Residentiary and Precentor of St Paul's Cathedral, diocese of London, to be Suffragan Bishop of Stafford, diocese of Lichfield.

The Right Rev Richard Hawkins, Suf-

fragan Bishop of Plymouth, diocese of Exeter, to be Suffragan Bishop of

Cathedral, to be Dean of Winches

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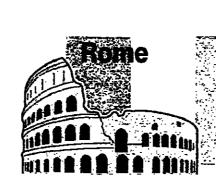
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Ethnic minorities 1991 of which:

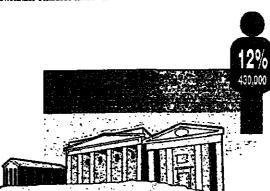
362.000 Indian 304,000 Black Caribbean 170,000 Black African

Ethnic minorities 2011

of which: 452,000 Indian 379,000 Black Caribbean 321,000 Black African







Ethnic minorities

of which: 138,174 Turkish 30,000 ex Yugoslav 28,927 Polish

Ethnic minorities of which: 50.000 European 30,000 Latin American 12,000 Moroccan





Ethnic minorities of which: .830.625 Black ,757,400 Hispanic 39,350 Asian

Los Angeles City Ethnic minorities of which: 1,394,000 Hispanic* 487,900 Black 313,650 Asian

Hispanic origin of any race

London: Europe's new ethnic melting pot

ondon has always been a cosmopolitan city, home to wave after wave of immigrants who in time have become Londoners, providing the mix that arguably makes London the most cosmopolitan city in the

There were Irish and Jewish people in London in the 12th Century. Greek Street in Soho takes its name from an Orthodox community there in the 17th century, while the East End has played host to seventeenth century Hugenots, eighteenth century Irish and 19thcentury Jews before becoming the Bengali community it is

And work by the London Research Centre published this week, based on the 1991 census, shows the process is still at work. From 20 per cent of the population now-ethnic minorities are projected in just 15 years' time to make up 28 per

cent of the capital's population. Two London boroughs, Brent minorities become the majority, their present 45 per cent and 44 per cent rising to 52 per cent and

61 per cent respectively.
But in every London borough the numbers will rise, from Bexley and Bromley to Richmond and Sutton. Each of these outer boroughs at present has only a 5 or 6 per cent ethnic minority population. But each of which will see a similar 40 per cent rise to the rest of London, taking them close to 10 per cent.

The increase is almost entirely the result of the natural Ouseley, chairman of the Commission for Racial Equality, challenge and an opportunity. By 2011, well over half London's ethnic minorities will be the wave of Caribbean and Asian immigrants from the 1950s and 1960s dies off.

6,890,000 7,029,000

age structure, not the result of higher birth rates or continued Hong Kong, almost 14,000 from Mauritius, 21,000 from immigration, according to the London Research Centre. Those groups which will enjoy Poland, 16,000 from Malaysia, the highest rate of growth at present have the lowest age profile. According to Herman these changes represent both a British born, a proportion that will continue to rise sharply as

London's cosmopolitan nature, however, comes not immigration. In 1991, the census showed there were communities more than 10,000 strong in London from 34 countries. They ranged from more than 250,000 Irish to 133,000 people born in EU

Nicholas Timmins looks at London's changing profile countries, 32,000 Americans, 50,000 Cypriots, almost 12,000 from Vietnam, 18,000 from

a similar number from Iran and 20,000 from Turkey. Not all of these will be British citizens and London's role as a key financial and trading centre has contributed to its ethnic mix - bringing in the Arabs in the 1970s and the Japanese and growing ranks of Europeans in the 1980s and 1990s - combined with Britain's traditional, if steadily more restrictive, role as

The most dramatic engine of the recent change in London's Enoch Powell's "rivers of ethnic make-up, however, has monwealth immigration, starting almost 50 years ago when the Empire Windrush docked in 1948 with the first Caribbean immigrants brought over to boost Britain's labour force. In assessing how well the

a haven for refugees.

capital has coped, Anne Page, chief executive of the London Research Centre, and Chris Myant, a spokesman for the Commission on Racial Equality, strive for a balance.

On one level the capital has adapted remarkably well. Only briefly in the 1950s in Notting Hill has there been anything in London that could fairly be called race riots: the 1980s riots in Brixton and at Blackwater Farm having causes far more complex than race alone.

None the less, immigration initially produced the growth in intolerance that almost every wave of immigrants has faced. Its peaks were symbolised by blood" speech in 1968 and the the late 1970s and early 1980s. But as legislation progressively restricted immigration, envernments of both colours began to take positive action to

promote good race relations

with the result that London

now has a record far better than probably any other European city, where in most cases mass immigration has been far more

The reason, I think, is that we deliberately faced the issues after the growth of intolerance of the 1950s and 1960s," Anne Page, the London Research Centre's chief executive says, defining the passage of the 1976 Race Relations Act as the crucial moment in that.

"As a result, London today enjoys a rich mix of people and culture unparalleled in Europe, and an atmosphere of racial harmony, compared to its own recent past and possibly to other large cities in Europe,"

to the immense range of restaurants and shops reflecting flavours and cultures from around the world but whole ethnic shopping centres from Soho's Chinatown to Southall's Indian markets that are an earnings for whites in London achieve equal opportunity, the gets it right, their segregation.

the capital will be composed of ethnic minorities. among the ethnic groups. The 1991 census showed that is the Notting Hill Carnival, a among black Caribbeans, there

uniquely Afro-Caribbean event that draws in a vastly wider range of the population than Afro-Caribbeans alone. That. he says, "is very different from the odd Chinese or Japanese shop. These are real communities that are part of London and it is something that gives us great confidence and hope for the future."

There remains, he says, how-

ever, a darker side, one of unequal opportunities and uneven achievement, fuelled by continuing discrimination. There is a seemingly permanent undertow of racial attacks and violence in parts of London. Employment opportunities still vary widely by race. Among 16- to 24-year-olds, the Labour Force Survey showed last year that 60 per cent of black males were unemployed. a rate approaching three times that for whites. Average weekly

against not much more than half that figure for the ethnic minorities. And while a black and Asian middle class has emerged in growing numbers there are wide variations

were half the managers there

would have been if there was no

employment difference between ethnic groups: the figure for the professions being a third. By contrast, among Indians the proportion in the professions was higher than expected. although managerial numbers were relatively low. The professions employed almost twice as many Chinese as might be expected. Bangladeshis, particularly, were over-represented among unskilled workers. And despite considerable considerable efforts, the ethnic minorities remain under-represented across wide swathes of city life. not just in professions and top Police, already policing a city a fifth of whose population is from the ethnic minority still has only around 1.5 per cent black

If there is a long way to go to

and Asian officers.

A new report suggests that within 15 years almost one third of are just under £400 a week continued growth of London's ethnic minority population. however, is surely less threatening to the white population now than the original immigration of the 1950s and 1960s. Familiarity has bred mutual tolerance. The National Front and British National Party, which once had their bases firmly in London's inner city, now seem to do better in Bexley where ethnic minorities still make up a mere six per cent of

the population. In an increasingly global world, London's cultural and linguistic diversity can be seen as a key competitive advantage. if only the capital has the wit to use it. "Britain's ethnic minorities are an irreversible part of the social, cultural and economic well-being of London, Mr Ouselev argues, "Employers in London have the opportunities to be the envy of the world with such diversity".

With more inter-marriage more mixed communities. and more diversity. London is set in the 21st century to become a new type of city for Europe - one more like the immigrant cities of the United States, but without, if London

Peter York, management consultant Eighties' style guru and co-inventor of the Sloane Ranger, has at last found a way of recycling all his insights from the past decade. In a forthcoming BBC series he claims that we are all nostalgic for the Eighties, despite its more recent reputation as a period that bother to reply," he says. The subject? glorified selfishness and excess, and pandered to right-wing market dogma

But York also has plenty to say about the defining features of the Nineties. Tony Blair, he tells me, is "pure Nineties man", because he has learnt from the Eighties and is prepared to say so. Then there is the way information technology has penetrated the sensibilities of the chattering classes - "18 months ago you would never have heard them talking about the Internet". And lastly, we have Sixties revivalism. "Seriously young, seriously cute girls wear short skirts and long boots. The men are eginning to wear sharp suits. It's a usitive, smart, youthful look."

None of this washes with Waldemar Januszczak, who was moved to write a vitriolic piece in the Sunday Times about the series: "Peter York appears to have spent the past five years in formaldehyde His business was selling nothing as something.... His suits might cost him £2,000, but they still cannot disguise the sad gait of a door-to-door salesman..." and on and on. York is baffled. "What I thought

was particularly unfair was that the Sunday Times did not state Jamszczak's day job, given the obvious conflict of interest with the BBC." lanuszczak is commissioning arts edior at Channel 4. And, curiously,

York recalls being asked in the

summer to front a programme for Clannel 4. "Since I was already

sened up with the BBC I did not

cross bridges." The bourgeois-populist bridge-builders. WS Gilbert could, no doubt, have got a lyric out of that. I will print the offerings of Independent readers who fancy themselves the very model of a modern bourgeois-

The London Evening Standard's front page this week showed this picture (right) in connection with the murdered headmaster Philip



Karl Watkin, the Newcastle businessman who yesterday bought the Tyne Theatre and Opera House in his home city for an undisclosed malti-million pound sum, looks likely to persuade the D'Oyly Carte Opera Company to move to Newcastle from Birmingham. "It is our intention," says Mr Watkin, "to develop the European centre for bourgeois-populist opera in Newcastle."

What, pray, is bourgeois-populist opera? Apparently, the phrase is the invention of D'Oyly Carte's chairman, Sir Michael Bishop, who also chairs the bourgeois-populist British Midland Airways. "The phrase is a new one and not a known operatic genre," said a D'Oyly Carte kesperson, a little uncomfortably. "I know bourgeois could be taken as an insult, but it's a way of saying we

populist bridge-builder, and can supply Eagle Eye with a suitably cutting Gilbertian lyric.

Lawrence. It was headlined: "A mourner kneels in silence by the floral tributes outside the gate of St George's School." Not quite. If you look closely, you can see a notebook a tool which identifies the "mourner" as the Mail on Sunday reporter Tanya Reed, who works two floors up from the Standard's offices.

Maureen Hicks, the rejected Conservative candidate for Stratfordon-Avon, claims bitterly that she fell victim to a "blue-rinse mafia" of nen. The blue-rinse epithet is always flung at ladies of a certain age and of a certain political disposition. but research by Eagle Eye shows that

it could not be more inappropriate. In fact, none of the women on the 23-strong selection committee has a blue rinse. But more damning than this to Ms Hick's testimony is the

Evening Standar FOR PITY'S SAKE PLEASE HELP



fact that the blue rinse is fast becoming extremely trendy. Daniel Galvin, hairdresser to the Princess of Wales, among others, tells me that he is giving that notably fashionable pop star and non-Conservative voter Cher a blue rinse, "She wanted a dark-blue rinse to get a navy-blue sheen to her dark hair," he says proudly. Whisper it not in Stratford-upon-Avon.

i am perturbed by the results of a new survey sponsored by Durex. It reveals that while 20 per cent of males believe office Christmas parties have a good chance of leading to casual sex, only 1 per cent of women share their opinion. Disturbingly, last year's figures were 13 per cent for males and 3 per cent for females.

I asked a professor of statistics for his conclusions. Combining a regression analysis of this year's figures with extrapolation of last year's, he came up with some alarming implications. If the figures are correct, he says, we are forced, within a 2 per cent margin of error, to one of the following conclusions:

 1) 17 per cent of males are incapable of learning from experience: 2) 12 per cent of women suffer from chronic alcohol amnesia; 3) women outnumber men at office parties by a factor in excess of four to

4) homosexual males outnumber heterosexual by almost 10 to one; 5) 1 per cent of females are

phenomenally promiscuous.

The party Eagle Eye wants to attend is the one patronised by all the above categories, where hordes of chronic alcoholic amnesiac women dance the night away with ever diminishing numbers of willing chaps.

Eagle Eye





Until then, there's Glenfiddich to enjoy.

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No big gestures please, Ken

Today will be the first time the Chan-L cellor and the Governor of the Bank of England have met since the Budget. After failing to deliver huge tax cuts last month, Kenneth Clarke is under political pressure to cut interest rates instead.

Économic evidence has been mounting in favour of such a cut. Several factors suggest the economy is weak and in need of a boost. Economic growth and inflation are both lower than expected. Manufacturing industry looks fragile. Export markets don't look promising. The US and Germany face a slowdown and are likely to cut their interest rates in the next few months. The gloomiest economists even argue that Britain is heading back into recession and should cut its own interest rates as far and as

As always, however, there are countless other economists who take a different view. Down at the Bank of England, they are worried that inflation might be about to pick up. They fear that we could be set for an upward spiral in wage settlements next year. If this is right, inflation looms. Cutting interest rates now would only fuel price rises.

The trouble is that no one knows who is right. Economists are picking their way through a mire of conflicting evidence. We could be on the brink of a boom or on the verge of collapse. Worse, policy changes that Ken Clarke and Eddie George decide today will not have their full impact on the economy for about two years.

Faced with this uncertainty, what advice should Eddie give, and what action should Ken take?

The Bank clearly feels bruised by its encounter with the Chancellor in the summer. Eddie George called for an interest rate increase. Kenneth Clarke resisted and turned out, against the odds, to be right. The combination of being ignored and being wrong has damaged the Governor's credibility. As a result Mr George will be tempted to tone down his remarks and avoid any

This would be a serious mistake. The Bank of England is responsible for watching inflation like a hawk, resisting short-term political pressures, and advising the Government on how to meet its inflation target. It would be far more damaging to the Governor's credibility if he was thought to be second-guessing the politicians than if he were to be overruled once more.

It is the Chancellor who will make the final decision. Mr Clarke would be foolish to make large cuts in interest rates until we are sure that wages won't escalate. However, should interest rates in Germany or the US fall in the new year, then there would certainly be a case for following these with cuts of our own.

In the Budget, Mr Clarke gave voters a taste of the tax cuts they wanted without jeopardising the economy or the public finances. The Chancellor showed admirable political self-restraint in putting the national interest before the party interest.

He could do the same with interest rates. A small cut in interest rates now - perhaps a quarter of a point - is likely to have little impact on the risk of inflation while making a political gesture in the direction of a bigger cut next year. That would give Mr Clarke time to see which way the economy is really going.

Is the problem really inflation or recession? The economic jury is still out.

Finger points at the **National Lottery**

The Nineties belong to Richard Bran-son. This is his decade. Consumers want not only top-quality products: they also require them to be morally clean. Mr Branson is one of the few business leaders to have recognised this necessity.

on those running and regulating the a full explanation of how and why he National Lottery. His reputation for honest dealing lends special authority and credence to his allegation that he was offered and refused a bribe to drop his plans to bid for the National Lottery.

He has performed a public service by bringing these allegations - against GTECH, the US part-owner of Camelot - out into the open. These claims must be investigated. But Peter Davis, head of Oflot, the National Lottery watchdog, is clearly the wrong person for the task. He has denied Mr Branson's claim that he was tipped off about the alleged bribe. None the less his credibility is already under question.

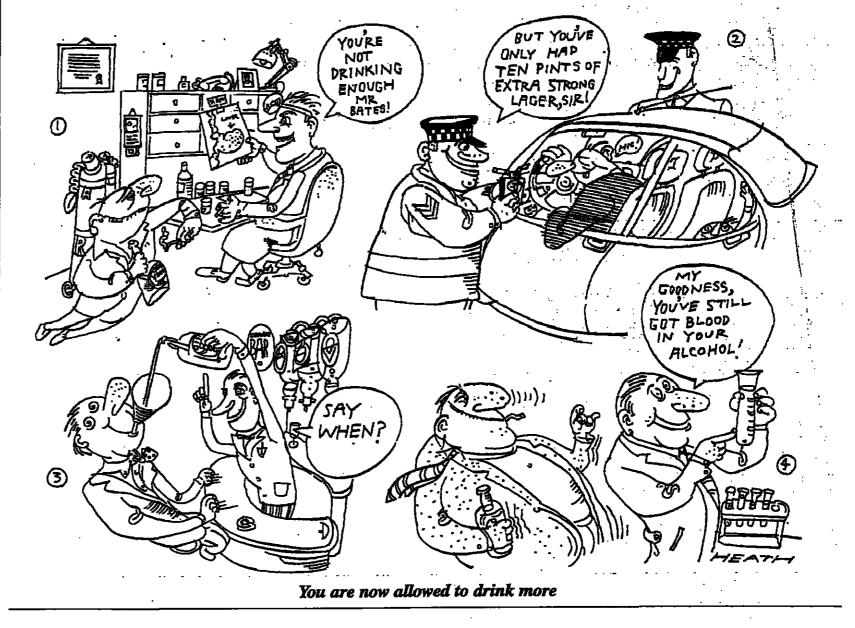
An independent investigation should be established by Virginia Bottomley, the Heritage Secretary, to clarify three issues. First, it would examine whether a bribe was in fact offered to Mr Branson. Second, it would ask whether Oflot knew about the allegation and, if it was aware of Mr Branson's claim, why it failed to act. If Mr Branson did indeed inform Oflot about the alleged bribe, then Mr Davis is clearly not up to his

job and should consider his position The third issue that must be tackled is the evidently cosy relationship between Mr Davis and Camelot. The regulator has denied any impropriety in taking flights in a private jet belonging It is in this context that he has taken to GTECH. He is, however, yet to give took these free trips. We await this with much interest.

The National Lottery is a huge generator of revenue for the public purse, charities and those who operate it. It must be publicly accountable and shown to be above suspicion. Yet at the moment, there is no guarantee that the Government is prepared to take its responsibility seriously. Only Mr Branson's determination to have his day in court seems certain to flush out the

Clearly, Mr Branson's lone stand is, for him, also a brilliant commercial strategy, for it is likely to enhance his reputation as a business leader of integrity. He also has personal reasons for taking on those who run the National Lottery: he would dearly love to have won the contract himself.

Regardless of these personal factors behind the Branson crusade, the Virgin tycoon has raised issues that require urgent inquiry. It is time that Mrs Bottomley pointed a very quizzical finger at those behind the National Lottery.



- LETTERS TO THE EDITOR -

No fears for 'real' refugees

From Ms Ann Widdecombe Sir: Peter Popham ("Sorry, Britain is now closed", 12 December) misunderstands the intention and the effect of the Asylum and Immigration Bill. There is no question that Britain is now closed to refugees. The UK will continue to honour its obligations under the 1951 Refugee Convention.

Last year, the Home Office granted asylum to 825 appli-cants. On top of that, 3,360 applicants who did not qualify under the convention were granted exceptional leave for humanitarian reasons. Absolutely nothing in the Bill will change the substantive criteria for making asylum and exceptional leave

Mr Popham complains about the delays. The fact is that the Asylum and Immigration Appeals Act 1993 enabled the average decision time in new cases to be reduced from more than 18 months to four months. But that significant improvement has subsequently been eroded by the massive rise in asylum applica-tions. There were 22,400 in 1993. 32,800 in 1994, and a projected 45,000 this year.

I cannot comment on the individual case highlighted in the article. But it is certainly true that no one suffers more from this massive overloading of the asylum procedures than genuine

The Bill and accompanying administrative measures aim to tackle this problem comprehensively, fairly and in a way that is fully compatible with our obligations under the convention. Genuine refugees have nothing to fear from our proposals. Yours faithfully,

ANN WIDDECOMBE Minister of State Home Office London, SW1 12 December

Death of a headmaster: where responsibility lies | Weddings and

From Ms Diane McHarg and others

Sir: On behalf of children everywhere, we are in great sorrow for the death of headmaster Philip Lawrence. Our thoughts are with him and his family. As children, we feel partly responsible for this tragic incident and we feel betrayed by this terrible deed. We are aware that is our duty

to stop it from happening again. In our opinion, violence on television encourages children to think that violence is all a game. It is the responsibility of TV companies, toy and games man-ufacturers and shops to discourage children from seeing violence as fun. We hope that the children who were involved in the killing realise that they have ruined many people's lives, including their own

We hope that children everywhere have learnt a lesson from before leaving home for school as

this violent, selfish, foolish and thoughtless act.

Let's all take it upon ourselves to make the world a better place and keep it safe.

DIANE MCHARG (headteacher) and Class 5G Preston Park Primary School Wembley, Middlesex

From Mr Basil D'Silva

Sir: A group of policemen should arrive unannounced at their chosen school with prior permission of the headmaster and check every child while leaving the gate of the school at the end of classes for lethal weapons and drugs. A little inconvenience to the children on the day will not cause many problems for the parents.

Widespread news of such raids should make children think twice to whether or not to carry a lethal weapon. Yours sincerely, BASIL D'SILVA London, SW20

From Mr Tony Fegan Sir: We have had a recent tragedy of a headmaster being stabbed to

death by thugs, and no arrests to date of the assailants involved. I am a 71-year-old pensioner, an ex-able seaman and a dock worker. I remember when a seaman going ashore for a lunchtime drink was not allowed to have his knife and

spike on him if going outside the dock area of most ports. Now society is going back to the jungle and it is warfare, even with children. Yours faithfully,

Tony Fegan

Maastricht mistakes can be corrected country could wake up to find

From Sir Fred Catherwood

Sir: Andrew Marr ("Dreams broken in the streets of Paris". 12 December) is quite right to warn us that, after 50 years of growing European unity, we are at a dangerous turning point. But the reason is not the power of the

global economy.

The Maastricht treaty is intended to protect us against the shock waves of the global economy by giving us a currency that would be strong enough to stand up to anything thrown against it, stronger and with a far wider base than the dollar and the yen, and much more easily tradeable than the mark. It would lower interest rates, abolish costly currency conversion within the EU's huge market and win the fight against inflation. Nothing the matter

with all that! The first political mistake was that, unlike the single market, which emerged with strong and widespread popular support from

the elected European Parliament, it came from behind the closed doors of the European Council and was seen as the creature of bankers and bureaucrats.

The second political mistake was that the powerful central bank, fully staffed, operating directly in the markets, was not matched with a corresponding increase in the power of the European Parliament, to which it was to be publicly accountable. Chancellor Kohl had made this a sticking point, which he only gave up at the very last

The technical mistake was that, despite its seven-year timetable, it allowed no interim safeguard against the vulnerability of the European Monetary System from the new free movement of currency and larger trade deficits from the freer markets. Twelve countries were left to defend 12 separate exchange rates out of 12 separate currency reserves, and a

Coke's Santa – it's

not the real thing

from Germany. The nature of Father Christmas owes more to

nistic "eat, drink and be merry"

attitude and is rarely seen except

From Mr Jonathan Leckie

Father Christmas.

that it had lost half of its currence reserves before breakfast. Black Wednesday was a foreseeable disaster which monetary union, when it came, was intended to prevent. Perversely, it took the

The economic mistake was that the new monetary power of the central bank was not matched by a corresponding body which could concert the economic strategy of the member states. So, unlike the single market, it was not seen as a means to create jobs through economic expansion. All these faults can be put

right. The alternative is either the competitive devaluations and trade barriers of the Thirties, or that we are ruled by the Bundesbank Yours sincerely. FRED CATHERWOOD

Cambridgeshire

The writer was vice-president of the European Partiament, 1989-1991.

Hats off to the **BBC's heads**

From Mr Angus Roxburgh

Sir: Recent letters to the editor Sir: I'm touched by Magnus Mills's concern at seeing me hat-less and freezing in Moscow on the validity of telling children the truth about the myth/lies of the existence of Santa Claus ("Dear Angus Roxburgh", 8 have continued to make the December). Perhaps he could make his feelings known to BBC same error. They consistently refer to this "jolly fellow" as management, for it is they who insist their correspondents must not wear hats. They think it The facts are that Santa Claus, his personality and garb were invented by Coca-Cola in the 1920s or 1930s to sell its product, undermines our authority. The increased medical bills for our constant colds, flu and rheumahis face being based on the face tism don't seem to bother them of the artist who drew him. He. at all. Incidentally, I do occasionally wear one when it reaches, therefore, is a very fitting image for the commercial feeding frenzy say, 30-40 degrees below, but whip it off just before appearing Father Christmas is an older

> ANGUS ROXBURGH BBC News & Current Affairs 8 December

Letters should be addressed to Letters to the Editor, and include a daytime telephone number, (Fax: 0171-293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent co.uk) Letters may be edited for length and clarity. We regret that we are unable to acmowiedge unpublished letters. Back issues of the *Independent* are available from Historic Newspa-

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From The Rev T. R. Barker Sir: Mrs M. Harris (letter, 9 December) draws attention to an important issue but hits the wrong target. The legal fees for a marriage service in the Church of England, from 1 January 1996, will be £114, plus £12 for the banns of marriage. To this can be added - if the couple request such services and if they are available in their parish church charges for music (the organist and choir), the ringing of the church bells, flowers and addi-

tional heating. Yet, even if all these extra charges are added in a large parish church, the church fees remain a very small part of the cost of the average marriage. The trouble is that, for a whole variety of reasons, couples choose to spend vast amounts of money on cars, videos, photographs and dresses for the bride and bridesmaids - and that is before taking into account the cost of the wedding reception, the almost inevitable evening party and a honeymoon.

When one looks at the substantial cost of an elaborate wedding, even in a less affluent community, the church fees are almost small change. It is perfectly possible to have a church wedding without all the extra expenditure that so many couples choose.

If the cost of a church wedding really is beyond the means of some couples, then perhaps we have to look again at our charges. But the prospect of running a means test in the vestry of the vicarage does not appeal. Yours faithfully, T. R. Barker

Diocesan Communications Officer Chester 10 December

From The Rev Derek Smith Sir: When I was in full-time ministry in a fairly affluent parish, I always encouraged the less affluent by remitting most of the we ding fees and even provided modest accommodation for the wedding reception. I believe this is a fairly common practice in many parishes, if not all. Yours faithfully,

DEREK SMITH Winterley, Cheshire 11 December

From Mr Samuel Mondle : Sir: The fees levied by the churches are required to be charged by law and no exceptions can be made. Any extras (such as the choir, video, etc) are not necessary to the exchange of vows in a church. Any couple wishing to take advantage of those extras and not able to afford them can opt to do what a couple in our church did last year - they had the marriage coemony performed in the morning family service with the whoe congregation present to witnes their union, followed by a brinand-share-a-meal. The fellowship which we shared was a shifing example of Christ in action a our daily lives.

There is absolutely no excus for people to "live in sin" ar much less for any part of the Church of Christ to condone i Yours sincerely, SAMUEL MONDLE West Bridgford, Nottinghamshire

The Same of Labort Re did Branse

12 December

Season's greetings from absent friends bet they were really rather upset by common now. If you're sending out

now what I hate worst in the world at Christmas time?" said the man next to me in the pub.
"I'll tell you what I hate worst at Christmas time. It's getting all those Christmas cards from firms you've done a little business with, all signed by everyone in the office. You know, small charity cards with five or eight names on, all signed by Tracey, Jim. Roger, Sue, Dave, Wayne, Hazel..." The man in the pub, whose name

was actually Pete, which is why he hadn't included Pete in the list of mundane names, trailed away in "What's so depressing about

that?" asked his companion, a cheery woman despite being his wife.

"Well, I just find it depressing, the thought of all these office workers getting round the table one morning, signing 200 cards in a row, not knowing who any of them are going to, just automatically dishing out Christmas cheer, just signing their name over and over again, Mandy, Mandy, Mandy, Mandy, Mandy ... and then a week later, us getting the card, and we're meant to say, 'Oh, how nice, Excelsior Office Supplies have sent us a card!', but we don't, we don't even say to the wife as a joke, 'Oh, look, we've had a card from Mandy, Rog, Emma, Doug, and Carol and Ted and Alice, and I



Sally and Binky', we just say, 'Why on earth do businesses waste their money on this token gesture, because they're not getting a card from me!"

There was a pause after this lowlevel tirade, until Charlie chipped in and said: "Well, he's certainly right about the names. I get some of these cards and they're always signed by people called Rog and Mandy and Hazel and Phil. You never get people called Clytemnestra or Phoebe or Cecil or Noel. They're always ordinary names, like Bob and Carol and

Ted and Alice." "When that film came out," said a woman called Mrs Minter, who wasn't the sort of woman you'd like to know the first name of, "when that film came out, I bet there were some groups of friends really called Bob

the goings-on in the film."
"Oh, sure," said Charlie, "and I

bet that when the famous pop group of the same name got going, there were lots of groups of people called Dave, Dee, Dozy, Beaky, Mick and Tich who were very upset. Very likely."

"It wasn't Dave, comma, Dee, Dozy, Beaky, etc." said Pete. "It was Dave Dee, Dozy, etc. There was one chan called Dave Dee, not two people called Dave and Dee.' "Are you sure?" asked Charlie.

"Landlord!" cried Pete, "Bring hither your copy of the Guinness Book of Pub Arguments!"

There is in fact no such book that I am aware of, but it is a tradition in the pub that whatever reference book is needed to settle an argument, it is referred to as the Guinness Book of Pub Arguments.
"Point one," said the landlord,

"the correct title of the group was Dave no comma Dee, etc. Point two, when firms send out Christmas cards, their office workers do NOT sit round all morning signing cards." "Then how do they get signed, clever clogs?" said Charlie.

"By an outside firm of contractors." "You what?" "Oh, yes," said the landlord. "Quite

commercial Christmas cards, you get a firm to do it for you. We did." "Who did?" "Us here at the Old Black Lion.

Last year it took us ages to do all our cards, but this year we were approached by a firm who would do all the signing and sending for us, so we leapt at it. We had to compromise a bit, because we don't really have many people working for us, so the firm added five fictional names of pub staff to the card."

There was a stunned silence. "Flo, Annie, Mick, Ian and Kim," elucidated the landlord. There was another stunned

"They do family cards as well," said the landlord.

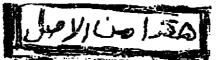
"If you're interested, I'll give you their card. They take a family mailing list and send cards to everyone on it. They actually practise forging the signatures of everyone in the family so that they can make the names look authentic.

Much later, when the pub was emptying, I asked the landlord if it was true what he had said about the firms that do cards for you. He said it was a total fabrication, but he was getting fed up with the conversation and wanted to bring it to an end.

in pictures trying to evoke an image of "Christmas past". Yours faithfully, JONATHAN LECKTE

character, whose adoption in Britain can be attributed to Prince Albert, who introduced Father Christmas and a whole batch of pagan Christmas ideas

Christmas's pagan roots; he embodies the feasting and hedopers, 9890 906609.



Man enough for poisonous porridge

Judge Tumim has been shamefully rewarded for his work as prisons inspector. But an ideal post is vacant

I was the moment the audience had I waited for. The prisoners of HMP Wandsworth beited out the song with no good, we're no good, good, good."
The words of West Side Story, written some 40 years ago, still summarise the some 40 years ago, still summarise the same old arguments. Are they sick or bad, to be punished or rehabilitated, for education or retribution? Judge Stephen Tumim has planted his standard firmly on the side of redemption, through education and the arts.

This was an evening for the great and good to say farewell to the great and good Judge Tumim, after his eight years as inspector of prisons came to an abrupt and untimely end when the Home Secretary chose not to renew his contract. The audience was packed with the tattered renmants of what was once called the liberal establishment – distinguished judges and lawyers, Lord Longford, Prunella-Scales, the former director of prisons and recent liberal convert Derek Lewis (another Howard victim), and many more, garbed in bow ties in homage to Tumini's own. It was a cabal of appreciation, an act almost of

Coded and not so coded words were spoken at the end of the show. And Judge Tumin warned that the 50 per cent cut being made in education inside prisons would virtually bring to an end performances such as these.

When it was strongly rumoured population.

that there will be no knighthood in the New Year Honours list for the fearless committees, no further service required, despite his hard-earned expertise. His honest and acerbic turn of phrase is not in demand.

He departed with a resounding speech on the redemptive power of art for prisoners, especially drama. A couple of prisoners in the cast spoke, too, effusive in praise for the judge, extolling with a few wry jokes all he has done for the prison service, the dignity of prisoners, for their rehabilitation and education. "Thank you for trying," one said. Lumps in throats all round. How sickened Michael Howard would

have been by all this soft stuff. The prisons are now fuller than they have ever been, as a deliberate result of the Home Secretary's belief that "prison works". On 1 December, when the new inspector of prisons took over, the prison population stood at 52,731 - 9,000 more than when Michael Howard became Home Secretary in 1993. But a confidential Home Office document warns that there is much

worse still to come. In his party conference speech, Howard announced new measures designed to send yet more people to prison for longer. Three-strikes-and-you're-out for burglary, life for secondtime violent and sex offenders and making prisoners serve their full sentences will multiply the prison



A secret internal Home Office memorandum makes an alarming pre-diction on the probable effect of just the last of these: making prisoners serve their full sentences. It expects the prison population to rise by 10,000 in the first year and another 10,000 in the second year, the total increase by year 10 being 29,000. This estimate is sed on the assumption that judges would hand out exactly the same sentences as at present, which they prob-ably wouldn't. But the same document says that judges would have to reduce their sentences to less than 60 per cent of present terms if a large increase in prison population is to be avoided. Very few people imagine that judges will do that, either.

At what point will the overcrowding become so explosive that riots will break out again? Will Michael Howard still be there to reap the whirlwind of this policy? The new drastic cuts in education, with staff directed to more security duties instead of escorting prisoners from cells to class-

rooms, will add to the pressure. So far no one has applied for the job

of director of prisons, following the sacking of Derek Lewis in October. The Home Office press office retorts that it hasn't been advertised yet - but it is widely regarded as the job from hell, a poisonous bowl of porridge. There is a deep, despairing anger among many in the prison service and it echoes in the whisperings down Home Office corridors. "No Home Secretary in living memory has ever been so hated," says one insider. "He puts political advantage ahead of

everything else. "Everyone's just holding their breath and trying to bear it until he goes," says another. I have never heard civil servants speak like this.

It was with an unguarded whoop of joy that one prison service insider greeted this week's comments by Tumim's successor. The fear was that Howard's appointee as inspector of prisons, General Sir David Ramsbotham, would be a know-nothing puppet, used to obeying orders. After all, Peter Lilley recently brought in a safe army man to head the tricky Social Services Advisory Committee. (A third ex-forces recruit, however, the Prisons Ombudsman, Sir Peter Woodhead, has turned out a disappointment to Howard, protesting vigorously that complaints which he upholds have been regularly rejected by the prison

Now it appears that the new inspector of prisons may be cut from the Tumim cloth. In his first interview this week he savaged the idea of boot camps for the young. He does not think not appoint him as director of prisons?

offenders should face tougher regimes in prison, wants them to have more icty at the growing overcrowding. "I am not going to respond to party political pressure," he said. "I shall be very crit-ical, but I hope constructive." Judge Tumim chuckled with glee on

reading this: "I never criticised political policy like that!" he said.

In writing his epitaph, it would be quite wrong to label Tumim as a straightforward liberal, for many penal reformers disagree strongly with his views. They believe custody should only be for the dangerous, and that prison is bad for people, hardening their criminality, with no proven good effect on reoffending rates. Tumim thinks well-run prisons could, and should transform people. The figures mean nothing, as it has never been

As he settles down to write his book on prisons, he advocates intensive education, training, moral and psychological counselling, proper work paid at proper rates, and arts to lift their horizons. Although he thinks too many people are sent to prison, he dis-misses the liberal counsel of despair, along with the right's bleat that it wouldn't be fair to give offenders advantages not shared by the honest unemployed outside the walls.

He has a Victorian faith in the power to redeem people, a faith all too unfashionable in so much social policy at the moment.

If they can't find anyone else, why

bers of the EU broadly accept that

European integration is in their

national interest; as a result, they are

able to focus domestic debates on the

important questions of "how" and

"when", not on what they regard as the rather redundant one of "whether".

These are not merely hollow words, rhetoric without fulfilment. The

dilemma of party interest versus

national interest was one that con-

fronted me on several occasions dur-

ing my 10 years as leader of the Con-

servative Party. One such occasion was

in May 1967 when the House of Com-

mons voted on the Labour govern-

ment's policy of applying to join the Common Market. Though the method

of application was deeply flawed, and I was aware that party capital could be made by embarrassing the govern-

ment, I asked all Conservative mem-

bers to support the government's policy. As I told the House: "We on this

side of the House are backing the gov-

ernment's application. I wish that to be

known everywhere. This clearly

demonstrates that the great majority

ing it also. What is important at this

juncture is that this is all history and

John Major and his government

have rightly welcomed the support of

day to avoid any further misrepre-

sentation. It was ignored by every

When I am accused by Euro-scep-

newspaper, so far as I could see.

must make its own impact on Europe."

of the House of Commons are back-

Michael Farrell wonders what has motivated the Government to lift accepted safe alcohol levels

comment

We don't need one more drink

The Government is too close 1 to the alcohol and tobacco industry for the good of the people's health. It firmly oppo-ses any ban on tobacco adver-tising. And yesterday, as the World Health Organisation launched its largest conference ever on the health risks associated with alcohol, the Department of Health announced revised guidelines universally perceived as an increase in the recommended sensible drink-

These limits previously stood at 21 units of alcohol a week for men and 14 for women. The Government has now announced daily limits - three to four units a day for men and two to three for women. The old sensible limits were backed as recently as June in a report by the Royal Colleges of physicians, psychiatrists and general practitioners and endorsed

ish Medical The resounding Association. However. message to the the Govern-

by the Brit-

ment has been public is that they under intense pressure from can drink more the alcohol

industry to _ modify these sensible limits. An internal nation of the alcohol indusworking group of civil servants reviewed the scientific evidence ostensibly on the links between alcohol and coronary heart disease and produced conclusions at significant variance with all

recent UK reports. The Royal Colleges' report. Alcohol and the Heart in Perspective: sensible limits reaffirmed, stated that alcohol consumption of one to two units a day protects middle-aged men against coronary heart disease and that alcohol may possibly have a protective effect in women, but it stressed that against this must be set the harmful effects of alcohol.

Approximately one third of men and 10 to 15 per cent of women already drink more than the existing recommended sensible limits. In 1990 the Government, in its Health of the Nation strategy, set a target ber drinking above these limits. Subsequent surveys have shown no changes in the numbers drinking above these levels. Despite this, the Government has now in effect increased the levels for safe drinking to a level that is against current medical advice. The single unit a day increase for women amounts to a rise of 50 per cent in recommended consumption and an increase of one third for men.

adopted a highly peculiar health promotion strategy by providing a choice of figures for the public to pick from. It has in effect squeezed up the levels while managing also to quote the more scientifically validated figure of two units for women and three units for men. This could be interpreted as a cynical move to improve its failing chances of hitting its target, but is more likely to be driven by the revenue benefits to be accrued by the likely increase in per capita consumption.

While one extra unit a day may seem little to debate over. it is clear that the resounding pre-Christmas message to the public is that they can drink more and drink more often.

In the sale of addictive substances such as alcohol and tobacco there is always a bal-

ance between economic gain for the Treasury and the damage to the public's health. Yesterday's guidelines are a clear victory of Treasury over health and

try's long-term pressure on the Government. Thus, at a time when the Government's strategy to reduce those drinking above the sensible limits is clearly failing, the Govern-ment has reduced taxation on whisky, increased children's access to public houses and recommended higher levels of consumption in a manner that is most likely to increase the health and social burden of alcohol-related harm on

In the same year the Government's new drug strategy consultation rejected proposals that alcohol and tobacco be included as part of the overall plan. Thus at a time when the Government wishes to give a firm message to young people against drug use it sends out the opposite message on alcohol and tobacco to the adult

The alcohol industry will applaud these changes as it pushes to maximise pre-Christmas sales, but the high cost of these changes will accumulate inexorably over the coming

The writer is senior lecturer and consultant in alcohol and drug dependence, National Addiction Centre and Maudsley Hospital.

I put the national interest first

Edward Heath sets the record straight on Labour, Europe and party treachery

In recent years I have become increasingly alarmed at the way the press has distorted and sensation-alised the European debate in this country. Even so, I was still somewhat shocked to read the headlines in Monday's newspapers: "I'll back Labour, says Heath"; "Heath may vote with Labour"; "Heath threatens revolt over EU". The content of the articles did nothing to soothe my ire. The Financial Times, normally more temperate, claimed that I had warned the Prime Minister that I would be willing to "defy the party line and vote with." Labour if the leadership's drift towards Euro-scepticism continued". ignoring this wholly spurious tale.

Such reporting amounts to a gross misrepresentation of what I actually said in my interview with John Humphrys, as anyone who watched it will be aware. My position was, and is, quite simple. In the entirely hypothetical event, put to me by the interviewer, of there being a Labour government which was putting forward sensible proposals for the future of Britain in Europe, I might be willing to support such proposals. I hope that other Conservatives would give them a fair hearing as well, and put the national interest before the usual party battles.

What this emphatically does not mean is that I am intending to vote against the present Conservative government on European matters, nor indeed on any other matters. I have always supported this Government and I will continue to do so. It is true that I wish the Government had more that is positive to say about European Union, and rejoiced more in our role in it. However, I have not the slightest intention of voting against the Government while it continues to support Britain's membership of the Union, and our role in its development. Nor did I say that I found the Labour Party's policy on Europe to be more congenial to me than the Government's. Indeed, despite the promptings of my interviewer, I refused to be drawn on this issue. While Labour politicians have spo-

en warmly of Europe, the entirety of our post-war history suggests that we should not regard this as a Pauline or even permanent conversion. The Labour Party has a dismal record on Europe, both in and out of office. The Attlee government's refusal to partake in the Schuman Plan, which laid the foundations for the European Community, was primarily responsible for leaving us isolated from the Continent. Harold Wilson's gyrations were equally destructive of British influence, conveying the impression that Britain was not committed to Europe, and favoured it only out of opportunism. It is too early to be sure of Tony Blair's commitment to the European



of the Labour leadership's anti-Common Market platform in 1983, as well as his general political style, suggests that his view on Europe may be as liable to change as those of Harold Wilson and Neil Kinnock. The Conservative Party, which has been in power for twothirds of the post-war period, has been consistent as a party of Europe.

Because of this deeprooted and long-standing support for Europe within the Conservative Party, I believe that the hypothesis put to me by Mr. Humphrys - that of a pro-European Labour government faced with an anti-European Conservative opposition - is highly unlikely to arise. Nor would

The point I wished to make in answering the question as I did is that matters of supreme national interest must override partisan boundaries. This is hardly a sensational pronouncement. That it should be seen as such reflects not just on the nature of the reporting in question, but also on

House of Commons over the past two

decades. The adherence to principles and the pursuit of national, as opposed to party, interests have become so unfashionable these days, that the great figures of our history would scarcely find comfort, let alone adulation, were they to operate in the present political climate.

Europe has always been an issue which I have regarded as being above

Regarding interviews by me or anyone a wide spectrum of opinelse, I suggest Euro-sceptic colleagues watch them before commenting

the cut and thrust of domestic politics.

There are two reasons for this.

In the first place, Britain's relationship with Europe is of supreme importance to the British people. Though it is occasionally represented as an arcane constitutional issue, it is in fact hugely important, not just in shaping our role in the world, but also in affecting the practical, everyday concerns of ordinary people. No effecthe erosion of statesmanship in the tive strategy for raising employment, combating crime or enhancing invest-

ment can exist at a purely national level. Our Empire has gone, and in 1997 our last major overseas territory
- Hong Kong - will have gone. We can still play a positive and influential role in the development of the free world but only as part of Europe.

Secondly, if Britain is to gain the maximum rewards from its membership of the European Union, a constructive commitment to

Europe must exist across

ion. Our colleagues in Europe are not impressed by confused signals about our commitment to the Union. Nor are our industrialists or potential investors impressed. This is not, of course, to say that debate should be sti-

fled, but merely to emphasise that a polarised attitude to Europe is unlikely to result in a coherent and long-term appraisal of British interests.

There is a strong pro-Europe majority in the House of Commons, which is only prevented from emerging clearly by party manoeuvrings. Until it does emerge, international confidence in our intentions will be damaged. Almost all the other mem-

a few days to consider our response.

As for the flights that we provided

Mr Blair and his party over the peace process in Northern Ireland. Labour may have put party interest above national interest when voting on European matters, but I do not believe that the Conservative Party should do the ame if Labour comes into power and is right about Europe. For the record, I issued a statement explaining all of this and clarifying what I said on Sun-

tics of threatening treachery, and of conspiring with Labour on Europe in order to embarrass a Conservative government, I am torn between anger and scorn. My own conduct on Europe and my support for John Major have been honourable and consistent. It is the Euro-sceptics who voted on the Maastricht Bill both against their principles and against their own party and government, and then queued up to join the campaign against John Major in the summer. Regarding interviews by the or anyone else in future, I suggest that my Euro-sceptic colleagues might watch them before commenting on them. The future of this country in Europe is too important for all these trifles to put it at risk in any way. Let us get back to a serious, intelligent debate about

The writer is Conservative MP for Old Bedey and Sideup.

the choices that lie ahead.

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ANOTHER VIEW Robert Rendine

Why did Branson sit on bribe story for so long?

On Panorama on Monday night, Richard Branson made remarks that were clearly grossly defamatory, accusing our chairman, Guy Snowden, of attempting to bribe him to drop his bid to run the National Lottery.

Mr Branson has a lot of questions to answer. Why didn't he make these allegations immediately? Then he could have caused a great deal of damage to Camelot's bid. Why did he not pursue the alleged bribery to Office, the lottery regulator, when the bids were made"

to Peter Davis, the director-general of Oflot. Mr Davis says this never

A closely researched book about Mr Branson published this year contains a detailed account of the lunch with Mr Snowden, yet contains no mention of any bribery attempt. In fact, the suggestion is that Mr Snowden tried to frighten the Branson team

from bidding. Why did Richard Branson not go straight to the police? Surely, as a cit-

He claims he offered to complain izen of the United Kingdom, he had a duty to report any wrongdoing? Yet he waited two years before unveiling his story on television - surely an inappropriate place to make such serious allegations

I would like an answer from Mr Branson to all these questions. At the moment his allegations are tainted by the way they have been made. We at GTech are considering

damaging story, we surely deserve

for Peter Davis when he visited the United States, everything was in strict accordance with all the laws, rules and regulations. There was nothing improper at all. Mr Davis, at his request, flew to five cities in three days, visiting GTech sites and our competitors. There is simply no way he could have covered so much whether to sue. As Mr Branson has ground so quickly on scheduled taken two years to emerge with his

Since the lottery was introduced in

Britain, lottery-bashing has become a favourite pastime of some sections of the media. Camelot - in which we hold a 22 per cent stake - is attacked for its great success. I discount those attacks because I think those who matter are the people who play the lottery - and virtually everyone in Britain is joining in, at least occasionally, to have a little flutter. That's what really

The writer is director of public relations

business

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Halifax hand-outs to benefit 100,000

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Rises				Falls			
ـــــــــ	Prior (p) Ch	(4) ega	المعن ال		Prilita (d) C	(4) 4==	X (transp
British Vita	216	14	6.9	Vaux Group	252	12	4.5
Medeva	270	13	5.1	Smith(DS)hldg	s 249	11	4.2
Taylor Woodro	w 123	5	4.2	T&N	161	7	4.2
Caradon	<u>1</u> 86	7	3.9	Stakts	79	3	3.7
Enterprise Oil	365	10	2.8	Powell Duffryn	435	15	3.3
			_				

	INTEREST RATES	
Short sterling*	UK medium gilt ^a	US long bond
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Money Market Rates	Band Yields*	

<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	1.23	4.30		
Germany	4.19	3.75	<u>6.1</u> 1	7.49	6.89	
			*Beeckmert	inlices		
		CURR	ENCIES			
£/\$:		£/DM		£/¥		
1.56	 -		• • • • • •	950		
1.56	1	227		158-		
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154 153 152 w (223 221 219 219							
Pozze	Yesterday C	hange !	fear Age	Dollar	Yesterniay	Change	Tear Ago	
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\$ (N York)#	1.5 <u>30</u> 5			£ (N York)‡		+0.19		
DM (London)	2.2183-	+0.3 <u>4</u> pf	2.4569	DM (London)	1.448	5+0.43	of 1.5728	
Yen (London) 155.90-	+Y0,97	156.83	Yen (London	101.8	1+Y0.79	100,39	
£ Index	82.80	unch		\$ ladex	94.4			
Her hat exchan	<u> الديد مند: م</u>	l treat Sea						
		01	HER IN	DICATORS				

Oil Brent \$ 17.43 -0.02 16.00 Gold \$ 388.50 -1.00 378.50

Source: FT Information

IN BRIEF **Cable & Wireless appoints Hoare Govett**

Cable & Wireless has appointed Hoare Govett as joint broker with Cazenove, fuelling speculation that the company expects a bid. Cable & Wireless was thrust into disarray last month by a vicious clash between Lord Young, chairman, and James Ross, chief executive, resulting in the departure of both men. One City analyst pointed out that Cazenove is also a broker to BT, which has been rumoured as a potential suitor for C&W. Shares in C&W. which said that it wanted the addition of a "more research oriented" house, rose by 5p to close at £4.46.

Pearson ahead as City awaits shake-up

Shares in Pearson, the media group that owns the Financial Times jumped 10p to 670p in early trading yesterday as the City braced itself for sweeping boardroom changes at the publishing and television empire. The company is expected to clarify the succession question today as Frank Barlow, the company's 65-year-old chief executive, is approaching retirement. Greg Dyke, head of Pearson's television interests has emerged as a favourite in the City to take the top job. It will also announce a new finance director, with John Makinson, managing director of the FT, replacing James Joll. Pearson's shares closed up 7p at 667p.

Rules relaxed for 'home service' insurers

The Personal Investment Authority, the financial services watchdog, is relaxing its rules forcing thousands of "home service" insurance sales staff to take tough exams before they contact their clients. Home service staff, selling a narrower range of products, will now be allowed to take a less onerous test. The rule change is expected to benefit Prudential and Pearl, who employ the bulk of home service staff. ploy the bulk of home service staff.

MPs want Irish steel aid blocked

A group of mainly Labour MPs will today challenge the Government to block aid for the Irish steel industry which most European Union member states have approved, arguing that it will cost hundreds of British jobs. Tim Eggar, minister for energy and industry, will appear this morning at the debate on the is-sue by European Standing Committee B. So far he has argued that stringent conditions should be attached to any aid to minimise the risks to employment in the UK.

Date set for BCCI extradition hearing

A provisional date of 15 and 16 February 1996 has been set for the hearing of the US extradition request for the former treasury head of the collapsed Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI). Syed Ziauddin Ali Akbar was sentenced to six years in prison in 1993 in the UK for his part in the misuse of more than \$1.2bn. He appeared in court to hear the date being set and will appear again on January 9 for a further preliminary hearing. Bail was not granted.

Waste Management warns on profits

Waste Management International, the American-owned waste disposal group, issued a profits warning yesterday, blaming weak trading and problems in strike-bound France. The company is to cut 300 jobs and will record a £123m exceptional charge to cover a restructuring programme. The changes follow a review of operations and management structure undertaken since Joseph Holsten was appointed chief executive. The company is to abandon some hazardous waste treatments which are uneconomic. The shares fell 23p to 346p.

Halifax Building Society mem-bers whose partners have died

stand to gain up to £100m in payouts following the society's nounced yesterday, will go to second-named persons on joint Halifax savings or mortgage accounts, mostly benefiting women whose husbands die

the bonanza. Halifax plans to Up to 100,000 mostly elderly hand over shares worth an average of about £800 to "personal representatives" of former account-holders or borrowers.

Halifax's move aims to avoid decision to opt for bank status. the débacle faced by Chel-The share hand-outs, an- tenham & Gloucester when up to 5,000 of its members were initially refused a share of the £1.8m payout when C&G was taken over by Lloyds. Their battle forced the Government not

takeover money.

David Gilchrist, general manager at Halifax, said: "We have been able to use provisions in the Private Members' Bill, passed earlier this year, which enabled the C&G to make pay-

ments to its own widows. "We have made no secret of the fact that our preference is for an across-the-board distribution for the bulk of the shares

when the distribution will take effect have not been decided.

The shares handed out will depend on Halifax's value when de-mutualisation takes place in mid-1997. Analysts suggest Halifax could be worth up to £10bn, with 10 million account-

holders able to benefit. The society's announcement means second-named accountholders whose partners have died will receive a basic share

before midnight on 25 November, 1994. Additional shares will be distributed if the account the balance is at least £1,000.

will also gain as long as they borrowers until conversion.

Heirs also stand to gain from MP Douglas French for them to able distribution to members." hand-out if their partners held Where a borrower has died bonanza. Halifax plans to receive a share of the Lloyds The exact details of how and at least £100 in either a Leeds in the past year and their partners. Permanent or Halifax account ner had an endowment available to pay off the mortgage, Halifax staff have been advising them to leave some of the debt was held continuously for two unpaid so they can gain from the years at the conversion date and de-mutualisation.

CITY & BUSINESS EDITOR: JEREMY WARNER

If a sole holder of an eligible Unlike the C&G payout, al- account dies, their heir will remost two million borrowers ceive the basic distribution. Should they have been a memowed at least £100 on 25 No- ber for two years, they will also vember last year and remain get the additional variable

Exchange to launch Amec share inquiry

MAGNUS GRIMOND

The Stock Exchange is expected to launch an insider dealing investigation into the trading of Amec shares following a Takeover Panel ruling that price-sensitive information was given to the market by the company's public relations advisers, Financial Dynamics.

A director of Financial Dynamics, believed to be the chairman, Tony Knox, is alleged to have given the profit information to one analyst unconnected with the £350m bid for Amec by Kvaerner of Norway. Financial Dynamics last night said it fully understood it oblig-

ations to meet takeover rules but would make no comment on the identity of the director involved. Following the panel's criticism, Amec last night sacked Financial Dynamics and replaced them

with rivals Dewe Rogerson. Amec shares were unchanged at 100p. As one of the key advisers to the construction group, FD was likely to be aware of the company's own predictions of next year's results. The prospects of a profits recovery next year have formed a central plank in the group's attempts to fend off Kvaerner, but no actual figures

following apparently well-informed speculation in the weekprofits. The panel's investigations forced the company into making a statement on Monday. That disassociated the Amec

The panel says its executive "requested and received specific written confirmation from Amec and its public relations advisers, Financial Dynamics, that no such information had been made available or implied by any statements made to third parties."

NatWest Markets, merchant bank advisers to Amec, also confirmed that the company and all its advisers had been briefed on the requirements of the Takeover Code, which forbids important information being passed on without being made available to all investors m the market.

But the panel says that in a conversation last Friday between an FD director and the unnamed broker, certain comments were made relating to the The panel says this "would have constituted material new information which was not public and was not capable of being made public without being prepared and reported on in accordance with the strict requirements set

out in the Code." It added that the conversation with the FD director also included unpublished parts of the defence strategy and the contents have been officially revealed. of the defence document not due The panel became concerned to be issued for several days.

The executive ruled that FD "failed to take sufficient care in end press about the level of 1996 its discussions with analysts which resulted in serious breaches of the Code and is criticised accordingly."

The bidder yesterday upped board and its all its advisers its stake in its target by 2.4 per of programme from any such leaks. its stake in its target by 2.4 per cent. don's Burning.



Granada to unveil cable venture

JOHN SHEPHERD

Granada Group, deeply im-mersed in a bitter £3.3bn takeover fight for Forte, will to- part of the package. day announce a significant ex-pansion of its LWT television

The plans involve LWT launching at least three new ca-ble channels in a joint venture potential of Granada's television with BSkyB, the television company controlled by Rupert Murduce debts if its bid succeeds. doch in which Granada has a Granada's shareholders yes-10.8 per cent £780m stake.

The three channels will offer drama, light entertainment and soap operas. Industry sources three weeks ago. Only two out added that the deal with BSkyB of 80 shareholders at the exwould involve back catalogues of programmes such as Lon-

There was a separate industry rumour that back editions of Coronation Street, produced through Granada, might form

Media analysts said the deal was unlikely to have a direct bearing on the bid for the Forte hotels group, although it would businesses and its ability to re-

terday overwhelmingly supported the board's aggressive move launched against Forte three weeks ago. Only two out traordinary general meeting voted against, and only 0.4 per cent of the millions of proxy

Only one question came from the floor. John Buckley, a small that the company might have to recall investors again to ask per- out with anything new." mission to increase its bid. He asked: "Like Oliver Twist, will Forte will announce a much you be coming again with your begging bow!?"

that Oliver Twist had a happy ment-led buyout.

Gerry Robinson, chief exec-A spokeswoman for Forte,

*INDEPENDENT

Special

Reports

Diary

1996

FAX-U-BACK

cards sent in disagreed with the which yesterday announced the £2.2m sale of a hotel in Liege, and a successful planning appeal for the redevelopment of the shareholder, was concerned Polygon hotel in Southampton, said: "Gerry's not coming

According to industry sources larger disposal by early next week. The sale is understood to Alex Bernstein, chairman, be the White Hart chain of replied: "I would just like to say hotels to a £130m manage-

Granada has complained to the Takeover Panel about utive of Granada, used the Forte's plans to sell chunks of meeting to launch a further at- its business. The company betack against the "mismanage- lieves the disposal programme ment" of Forte under the should be put on hold until the leadership of Sir Rocco Forte. outcome of the bid is known.

Skipton cuts | Health effect of mortgage cost

Skipton Building Society, which stunned the mortgage market earlier this year by offering free unemployment insurance to its borrowers, yesterday unveiled the cheapest variable rate repayment mortgage of Britain's top 20 societies with a figure of 7.49 per cent, writes Nie Cicutti.

The decision cuts about £11 off the cost of an average £50,000 mortgage. The society has also moved to narrow the gap between mortgage and sav-ings rates even further by in-creasing rates paid to some instant access account savers. Skipton has added a new tier offering 6.5 per cent gross on savings above £30,000 and

pledged yesterday that even if it were forced to cut rates to its 300,000 savers it would try to do so by less than other lenders. John Goodfellow, chief executive at Skipton, yesterday challenged other lenders to follow his example. "Our current rates later today.

profitability is strong and this is set to continue throughout 1996," he said. "Our capital po-sition is strong and I believe that now is the appropriate time to reduce margins for the benefit of all our members."

The move to cut 0.5 per cent off the existing rate will come into effect for the society's 60,000 existing borrowers on 1 February next year, one month after other lenders, who cut their own recently. But Skipton claimed that the difference in starting dates would only add a fraction to borrow-ers' bills. David Chariton, assistant general manager at Skipton, said falling bad debt provisions for societies meant that all should now be prepared to lower their margins further. Skipton's move came amid hints that lenders will not raise mortgage rates even if Kenneth Clarke, Chancellor of the Exchequer, does not lower base

Compass sell-off Compass Group has sold its £442m of debts amassed over healthcare division in a £178m the last couple of years from the deal that could make the top 50 managers of the business mil-

lionaires, writes John Shepherd. Senior and middle management are being offered the chance to take a 10 per cent equity stake for a total outlay of £500,000 by CINVen, the venture capital group that is buying the business. The healthcare company, which operates 15 private hos-

pitals and no longer fits the global expansion strategy of the contract catering core of Compass, is headed by Nigel Harris. CINVen is paying an initial £170.8m, and will repay a £8m loan after 8 years or before if the business is either sold or floated on the stock market. The venture capital company also harbours plans to recoup some of the purchase cost by selling small eq-

uity stakes to other investors. Roger Matthews, finance director of Compass, said the sale ber. Depreciation equates to 7 would help to cut the group's per cent of sales, almost £5m.

the last couple of years from the purchase of Canteen Corpora-tion in the US for £300m and the recent £500m acquisition of Eurest in France. Shares in Compass yesterday

rose 5p to 450p in a lacklustre stock market. Compass will also book a profit of up to £25m on the deal, relating to the writeback of goodwill and the surplus over the carrying value of the hospitals in the books. Francis Mackay, chief exec-

utive and deputy chairman, said the disposal was a natural extension of Compass's strategy to focus on catering. Simon Rowlands of CINVen,

which recently conducted its own mangement buyout, said it would continue to reinvest in the hospitals at a rate above depreciation. The hospitals made £16.4m of profits on turnover of £69.7m in the year to 1 Octo-

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BP boss backs single currency

PETER RODGERS Business Editor

Europe should move to monetary union on schedule, a toplevel Brussels advisory committee including Sir David Simon, chairman of BP, warned

The committee's report was far more committed to monetary union than British business as a whole which, according to a joint CBI and British Chambers of Commerce report last month, would prefer to keep options open and decide nearer the time.

Competitiveness Advisory Group, made up of senior business people and trade unionists, said completion of the internal market was an absolute prior-

ity to enhance competitiveness. Further progress on the internal market required that "European monetary union be fully implemented as sched-uled. Many of the benefits bestowed by an integrated internal market can materialise only with the introduction of the European currency."

The report, commissioned

The European Commission's by Jacques Santer, president of the European Commission, has been published ahead of the Madrid summit of European leaders. The group's first report was published before the

Cannes summit. Introducing the report, Sir. David said his personal support for monetary union was conditional on convergence between European economies and on having a single market as the

The committee said monetary union would avoid exposing trade inside Europe to sudden

gyrations in exchange rates. The benefits for all countries "irrespective of the present condition of their currency will be greater the higher the number of participating member

The ambitious targets within the Maastricht treaty were now within reach and any delay or postponement "could drive them further away, with the risk of losing them, as well as jeopardising the work of decades, with the resurgence of the danger of nationalistic attitudes and demands".

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Other regulators in gas electricity and water are beginning to talk of opening up the regulatory process. Offot may find it

needs to do that, too'

Ever since its launch, the national lottery and its operators, Camelot, have been bathed in controversy. Try as it might, Camelot - a consortium of Cadbury Schweppes, De La Rue, GTech, ICL and Racal - has been unable to win the public relations battle. The regulator's careful demonstration that Camelot offered the best returns to good causes because of its lower operating costs was largely ignored. A National Audit Office report in July, which said the evaluation process was comprehensive, logical and competitive and that Camelot offered the highest returns to charities, also failed to dampen public doubts. Set against its leading rival, Richard Branson, who promised to give all his profits to charity too,

Camelot was always going to be on a hiding to nothing.

The latest shenanigans have put the lottery's problems onto an altogether different plane. Allegations by Richard Branson of attempted bribery and furious denials by Glech have been followed by an admission by Peter Davis, director general of Oflot that he accepted a free flight while visiting GTech. The latter was at best unwise and naive, but it would not be enough in itself to impugn his integrity. Direct allegations of corruption, however, raise very real con-cerns both about Oflot itself and about regulation of privatise sector monopolies gen-

Mr Davis is in effect a government department of his own, with powers inde-

pendent of ministers, sitting secure in a unexpected words of support for the in-blanket of secrecy and confidentiality, which surrance market's rescue plan from Chatset, to the settlement drag on and on. Lloyd's he used on Monday to fend off awkward questions about how much he knew about GTech. That is hardly a way to inspire public confidence in the decisions Mr Davis

took last year. Other regulators in gas, electricity and water are beginning to talk of opening up the regulatory process to public scrutiny. Oflot may find it needs to do that, too, if it is to carry the public and parliament with it. Better still, the load should be taken off one person and shared with a committee.

Oflot also has some pretty tough powers it can use against Camelot, including the ability to revoke its licence. Furthermore, it can force shareholders to bow out by finding them not fit and proper. These are, however, nuclear weapons, so dramatic that they are hard to use because the aggrieved party is entitled to demand the highest standards of proof and can pursue appeals through the courts. Regardless of who is right or wrong in this particular sprat, therefore, the case is now almost overwhelming.

Time to get tough with Lloyd's market players

Lit can get. So it was with an audible murmur of surprise that the beleaguered establishment at Lime Street reacted to tinues to slip and negotiations with key mar- weeks after the Tax Law Review Commit- that issue too.

the independent analysts. In the past, as Lloyd's condition turned from dire to disastrous, Chatset made its name for regularly laying bare, with figures and sharp analysis, the obfuscation, half-truths and downright lies behind which the insurance market

No danger to Camelot's licence to print money

sought increasingly to hide.

Now it has concluded that the rescue plan, and in particular the offer to Names to put a final cap on all their old liabilities by re-insuring them in a special company. Equitas, is the best way forward.

The 34,000 Names, most of whom have ceased trading in the market - but are still having to pay for their old liabilities as they role in year after year - are being offered a stark choice. Find sufficient money now to pay one last bill, the premium to reinsure all the old policies into Equitas, and finally win peace of mind. Or take their chances with the uncertainty of bills that continue to roll in, as Lloyd's is forced to shut its doors to new business and just manages all its old liabilities.

Chatset's support for the former option as the cheapest way out for long-suffering Names is something of a weathervane. It lends further credence to the view that a majority of Names just want an end to the nightmare and will give their backing to a reasonable settlement deal. But Lloyd's still has to deliver that deal. The timetable con-

should not just take comfort from Chatset's support, but also carefully heed the warning that it is high time to get seriously tough with the key market players. Their niggling over paying into the settlement pot has been the main reason for the hold ups. And yet it is they who stand to lose most if Lloyd's

A tax system that needs to be clearer

Trying to make our excessively compli-1 cated tax system easier to understand is a noble and no doubt worthwhile cause. Certainly tax experts everywhere gave a broad welcome to yesterday's report on simplifying the legislation. Complex language and rules put an excessive burden on per-

sonal and corporate tax payers alike.

However, although the project is undoubtedly far-ranging - it involves more han 40 people spending five years on a complete rewrite of the legislation - it is difficult to see what will be achieved from this alone, apart from a crystal award from the plain English campaigners.

The document and the supporting paper produced by the Revenue form just one part of a general push to reform the tax system. The latest development comes just a few

tee, which includes a seconded Revenue official among its membership of parliamentarians, lawyers, academics and tax practitioners, came to much the same conclusion - that the tax system needed to be

clearer if it was to be properly understood. Meanwhile, Peter Wyman, a tax specialist at the accountants Coopers & Lybrand. has recently agreed to head a Department of Trade and Industry deregulation task-force group which is looking at moving towards a merger of income tax and

National Insurance. What none of these manoeuvres deals with, however, is the growth in tax avoidance, which has become a booming industry despite the assertion that Britain's low rates of tax are a disincentive to spending a lot of money on tax advice. The complexity of the tax system is fertile soil for this blossoming profession.

The Revenue has got that front covered too, however. A consultation paper which was slipped out a few weeks ago is seeking views on whether Britain should follow the likes of Canada. Australia and New Zealand in introducing a general antiavoidance provision.

Practitioners are convinced that such a measure - centred on the idea that transactions carried out solely for tax reasons are barred - is unworkable. But just because they have got their way on simplification does not mean their views will prevail on

1,000 jobs to go in Northern Electric efficiency drive

Industrial Correspondent

Northern Electric will cut up to 1,000 jobs by the end of the decade in a continued efficiency drive which has already re-duced the workforce by 1,700 since the company was privatised. At the same time Scottish Power said it would axe 350 jobs over the next 12 months at Manweb following its acquisition of the electricity firm.

The Labour party attacked the moves as the "latest utility jobs. massacre". Ian McCartney, Shadow Employment Minister, Shadow Employment Minister, merging with another regional said: "These latest job losses electricity firm, but added: "We come on top of more than 42,000 are happy to remain indepen-iobs already cut in electricity dent. What we are about is givprocess began in 1990."

He added: "Cutting staff may

give quick fix to the balance sheet, but it does not necessarily improve service to the consumer, who also ends up paying for former utility employees to be unemployed."

One City analyst said that the planned reductions at Northern are an "interesting pointer" for the rest of the industry. "Most of these companies are still over-manned and under managed," he said.

David Morris, Northern's chairman, said that 200 jobs in 1994. The interim dividend

would go both this year and next, with natural wastage then reducing the workforce each year by "approaching that" number. He added: "Our task is to make ourselves as cost. effective as larger players and clearly that is an uphill task."

Mr Morris said that the coma number of foreign suitors since the lapse of a hostile bid by Trafalgar House earlier this year but that there have been no "serious discussions". He hinted, however, that the company would be interested in

ue to our shareholders.

He was speaking as Northern announced a fall in pre-tax profits to £58.7m in the first half of the year from £63.4m in the same period last year. The fall was partly due to the £2.9m cost in advisors fees of issuing special dividends and preference shares as part of the company's package of shareholder sweeteners offered in defence of the

Trafalgar House bid. The results were also distorted by higher interest charges after a share repurchase and a non-recurring property disposal

of 12p represents an underlying increase of 7 per cent over last year. The company's shares closed unchanged at £5.83.

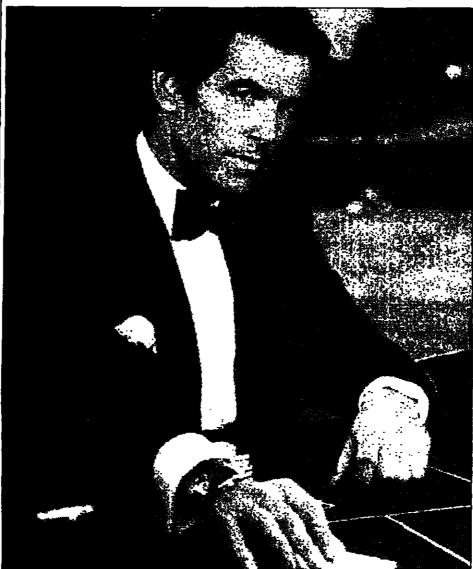
Mr Morris said that future growth prospects will come both from improved efficiency and from unregulated businesses, including gas production pany has bad approaches from and retailing, power generation and supply of electricity to commerce and industry.

Separately, National Power and PowerGen received a fillip from the industry watchdog, Professor Stephen Littlechild. who said that he would not extend the price cap in the electricity trading pool beyond March 1996.

The cap was imposed in early 1994 because of his concerns about lack of competition. But recently PowerGen agreed the £500m sale of two power stations to Eastern Group, now part of Hanson. National Power is also on track for power stations disposals.

The statement by Professor Littlechild comes as the Monopolies and Mergers Commission prepares to start an investigation into the £2.8bn bid by National Power for Southern Electric and PowerGen's £1.9bn proposed takeover of Midlands

Casino crunch: Stakis shrugs off drop in gaming profits



Dealt a poor hand: The Glasgow-based group blamed the National Lottery, hot weather and entrance charges for its 7 per cent decline in casino profits to £11.7m last year. But Stakis Investment Column, page 20 | recorded a 28 per cent rise in overall pre-tax profits to £25.8m | Investment Column, page 20

20 millionaires in Goldman bonus payouts

JOHN EISENHAMMER Financial Editor

Goldman Sachs and Morgan Stanley launched a storming debut to the City bonus season yesterday with a handful of top executives at the US investment banks each collecting bonuses around £1.5m. Even the cleaners at Goldmans have received 20 per cent on top of their basic salary, in celebration of what has turned out to be a vintage investment banking year. About 20 senior Goldman

staff in London, working at executive director level in all the main sectors of the bank's acearning bonuses closes to £1m on top of their salaries. A few of the top business bringers have been awarded bonuses

well above that level. The 33 partners in London, who make up the clite of the privately owned investment bank, do not receive bonuses but rather a share of the profits which is credited to their capital accounts. This pays interest, but the accumulated amount can only be cashed in when the partner retires. The

getting final notice of their share of the 1995 bonanza.

But the extent of the improvement in the bank's fortunes can be judged by the more than doubling of the firm-wide bonus for what Goldman calls its support

This has risen to 20 per cent of basic salary, as against just 8 per cent in the exceedingly difficult 1994, when many of the US houses took a severe hit in the turbulent American bond markets. But both Goldmans and Morgan Stanley vesterday said that, while the bonuses reflect the marked improvement in investment tivity - equities, mergers and banking fortunes, they are acquisitions, fixed income and still some way off the heights derivatives - were told yes- reached in the frenzied bull terday that they will be mil- market of 1993. In that year, lionaires by Christmas, firm-wide bonuses were 30 per cent of basic salary at Goldmans.

While the securities side of the businesses has struggled for much of this year to make its mark, the burst of mergers and acquisitions activity across Europe, and the high fees it has generated, has powered investment banking and the City back to the ton of the high carning league.

All those houses with strong corporate finance departments are looking forward to partners will have to wait un- a substantial jump in their til the end of the year before rewards.

Plain English to tax Revenue

ROGER TRAPP

pecial

(-U-BAC)

The Inland Revenue plans to devote a 40-strong team to a five-year project to rewrite 6,000 pages of tax legislation into plain English with the aim of making it easier to under-

The move, confirmed yesterday by Michael Jack, the Financial Secretary to the Freasury, is a response to criticism of the complexity of the tax system in the run-up to the introduction of self-assessment. It follows the publication of a Revenue report, The Path to Tax Simplification, which suggests that making the language of the legislation simpler will reduce compliance costs for business

parliamentary question, that

the Government's deregula-tion initiative, the approach of self-assessment and continuing efforts to improve service,

quality and cost-efficiency. The development was broadly welcomed by tax practitioners who have argued that the complexity has made it difficult

accountancy firm KPMG, said: ingly difficult to understand tax legislation. Tax simplification will provide more certainty and so reduce costs. This will help a whole. Practitioners will be able to advise their clients on their business plans much more effectively if tax law becomes clearer."

Mr Jack said, in answer to a the development fitted in with come to fruition. Gerry Hart, with deregulation initiative'

for them to advise their clients. Ian Barlow, bead of tax at the "Business is finding it increasbusinesses and the economy as

However, there are doubts about whether the plans will

president of the Chartered In-stitute of Taxation, which has been heading the reform campaign, said that the scale and cost of the project - estimated at several million pounds might lead to it being aban-



Michael Jack: 'Plans fit in

doned if there were a change of government. When Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, made a commitment to the plan in last month's Budget, Philip Davis of accountants Ernst & Young said it was "particularly disap-

pointing" that the speech con-tained no real attempt to reach

the goal of simplification. Tax legislation has grown from a mere 180 pages at the end of the First World War to 345 new pages of new law in the 1994 Finance Act alone. The amount of legislation this year is expected to be on a similar

Wholesale rewrites of tax legislation have already been undertaken in Australia and New Zealand. And the Revenue project is expected to take much the same approach of revising the structure without changing the policy.

Lloyd's rescue plan 'best bet for names'

Lloyd's of London's rescue plan for the insurance market received unexpected backing yesterday from a persistent critic, writes John Eisenhammer. Chatset, the independent an-

alyst, said in its annual report: What Names must understand is that the alternative to Equitas is grim." Equitas will take over re-

sponsibility for asbestos and pollution liabilities that have brought ruin to many Names. The total premium, to be divided among some 34,000 Names, will be about £1.9bn.

Charles Sturge, managing director of Chatset, said the bill that Names will face from Equitas— finally putting a cap on able interest in keeping their losses — still looked the alive," said Mr Sturge. Comment, 1

"The overall loss bill facing Names just for the last two years has amounted to £2.6bn. Against that we think a £1.9bn total Equitas call looks pretty reasonable. If Names are offered finality, it seems a lot cheaper than having £1bn losses lobbed at you for the next 10

years," said Mr Sturge. He did warn Lloyd's, however, that it was trying to force through Equitas on the cheap. The market professionals managing agents, brokers and those who insure them – should contribute about £700m more, Chatset suggested, since they depended on its survival. "All of these groups have a considerable interest in keeping Lloyd's

finance accountancy

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> See pages 15 - 19 section two

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Every Wednesday in the **XINDEPENDENT** section two

Greenbury supporters turn guns on critics

PETER RODGERS Business Editor

Tim Melville-Ross, director general of the Institute of a vested interest in seeing it fail. Directors, yesterday warned critics of the Greenbury Committee on top pay to stop fighting key recommendations and to support the whole of the report rather than undermine it.

Mr Melville-Ross, a leading member of the committee, said: Tinker with bits of it and you will undermine the whole."

His decision to go public is the highest-profile development in a campaign by committee members against a rearguard action from boardrooms to modify the Greenbury proposals, especially those on long-term incentive schemes and pensions disclosure.

Last month Geoff Lindey, the Sir Richard Greenbury is also Independent amplifying remarks ension fund representative on understood to be conducting a in a speech last night to the pension fund representative on the committee, attacked "pow-erful voices" which he said had



'Mutterings': Tim Melville-Ross of the loD

private campaign at senior levels to defend his report. Mr Melville-Ross put himself

into direct opposition to his own president, Lord Young, the former chairman of Cable & Wireless, who called recently for an end to over-regulation of the

Mr Melville-Ross said: "We the balance right. Not every member of the Greenbury Committee agreed with every detailed recommendation, but we all subscribed to the whole. The result should be recognised for what it is - an important step forward and an important bulwark against wholly unacceptable legislation."

Institute of Chartered Secretaries, Mr Melville-Ross said there were a number of issues where there was backsliding from Greenbury, both formal-ly - in the drafting of new Stock Exchange listing rules and informally, when meeting people "at City cocktail parties".

The Exchange is responsible spent a long time trying to get the balance right. Not every account of the Greenbury recommendations. Mr Melville-Ross said one concern on the listing rules was the Exchange's draft proposal that sharehold-ers should vote on long-term incentive schemes only when they covered periods of three years or more.

In an interview with the be a vote on anything longer

than one year but the Exbest will in the world" was an incentive to companies to pitch incentive schemes between one and three years, and prevent consideration by shareholders. He also attacked the Exchange's definition of long-

term incentive scheme, but for being wider than the committee intended, catching pensions as well. "The way long-term incentive schemes are being defined in the draft listing proposals appears to catch other things as well," he said. The committee proposed

tough disclosure rules for pensions based on the increase in value to a director each year, but asked the institute and faculty The report said there should of actuaries for a recommen-

this. The proposal caused a change's proposal "with the storm because it will show enormous annual pension values when directors receive large salary increases. Mr Melville-Ross attacked an

attempt to water the actuaries' calculations down by averaging the value of pension increases over a number of years, which he said was "not to hide but to smooth the changes. I don't like the idea. If you are going to have a significant impact you ought to declare it and justify it to shareholders."

He said the informal "mutterings" against the report included claims that the committee had been too tough, for example in favouring one-year rather than two- or three-year contracts - although the report

THE INVESTMENT COLUMN Edited by TOM STEVENSON

A costly contest for Northern

Shareholders in Northern Electric will be cursing Professor Stephen Littlechild, the electricity regulator, for keeping it from the clutches of Trafalgar House. The shares have fallen 40 per cent against the market since the regulator stunned the sector in March by announcing a new review of electricity prices, the second within a year.
The move in effect put the kibosh on

the £1.2bn bid from Trafalgar, which has since unveiled such a tale of miscry that there is no realistic chance of it ever mounting a further bid.

Interim figures from Northern yes-terday suggest another reason for shareholders to criticise Professor Littlechild. Gross profits fell £13.4m to £139m in the six months to September, mainly due to the first distribution price review last year, which tightened the cap on charges. The company did well to mitigate some of the effects of the review, cutting staff costs by £5.7m, but the biggest boost to slightly higher operating profits was the £11.1m cut in restructuring charges. At the pre-tax level, profits slumped from £63.4m to £58.7m.

The £2.9m costs associated with the company's "scorched earth" policy against Trafalgar – issuing a 100p-a-share special dividend and the bonus issue of preference shares - plus £3.4m in higher interest charges as a result of a share buy-back more than offset gains elsewhere. Meanwhile at Vaux gearing has edged up a couple of points

to 26 per cent since the year-end.

It cannot be denied that the company has delivered value to share-infly on a range of subjects yesterday holders. It is passing through all the benefits of the interest in the Nation-Grid, but the net dividends as well, worth 4.58p in these figures.

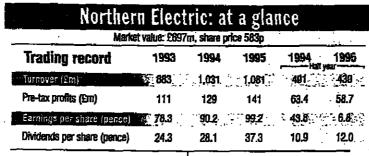
On top of that, the company is committed to pay another special dividend - expected to be 56.5p in February 1997 - and increase the ordinary payout by 7 per cent a year until the next century

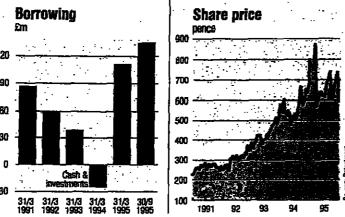
Based on the company's forecast diva prospective yield of 8.4 per cent. That and managed pubs offset by Vaux's core looks high for what should be a safe tenanted pubs and its main diversifiance. earnings generator and 650p would put the yield on a more realistic level.

cation, nursing homes.

Vaux picked up a lot of its 792 ten-

well into the next century. Still not one tion and with good facilities.





Little to cheer

- the Lottery, beer duty - but especially the 14p fall in Vaux's share price to 252p al Grid, with investors not only pick-ing up Northern's shareholding in the the year to September. The fall means the shares trade on a yield of more than 5 per cent, well above the market

He should hardly have been surprised by the reaction of the City, which was disappointed by the headline profit number of £31.8m and a modest 3.6 per cent rise in the dividend to 10.2p. Analysts also had their worst fears conidend of 39.9p for this year, the shares, firmed by the curate's egg of a divisional unchanged yesterday at 583p, stand on split which showed buoyant hotels

With "clean" profits set to reach ancies recently as part of the restructuring of the brewing industry since the price/earnings multiple of just 7 could beer orders and it is becoming in-tempt further bidders to enter the fray. creasingly clear that it acquired an ex-The risks remain high, though. Gear-ing is set to soar to over 400 per cent company's own estimate only a fifth of by the end of the decade, if preference sales are through pubs it considers to shares are included, and could stay high be in a good location, in good condisales are through pubs it considers to

That would not matter so much if

most of the remainder were not in such poor locations that upgrading them is not a viable option. Buying a market for Vaux's brewery output seemed like a good idea but getting rid of a long tail of underperforming pubs is a

heavy price to pay.

In Vaux's part of the world, the closure of the Durham collieries, a greater enthusiasm than elsewhere for the attractions of the National Lottery and a steady stream up the Al of vans loaded down with illegal booze from the Continent, led to a 6.3 per cent decline in beer sales, a poor showing compared with a 4 per cent slide in the tied market as a whole.

In nursing homes, underlying profits were flat. Delays in registration of new residents meant that they were spending less time in the homes than was previously the case. Uncertainty

After sharply higher rents, however, profits slipped a worrying 14 per cent and it is not wholly apparent what Vaux has to offer that a specialist in the area

These two problem areas took the shine off an impressive performance from Swallow Hotels, where occupancy increased to 68 per cent, equal to the best ever achieved, and profits grew a useful 25 per cent to £19.7m.

Managed pubs, flavour of the month sition to keep the City happy. Hold.

in the City, increased 12 per cent to £7.6m although that is still only half the profit from tenancies.

On the basis of a prospective price/earnings ratio of 14, the shares are. high enough, especially given the slow growth ahead. The shares should be sup-ported by their high yield but they won't

Stakis returns a lesson for Forte

Latest figures from Stakis, the Glasgow-based hotels-to-casinos group, give a clue as to just why Granada is so interested in Forte. Stakis squeezed close to a point of extra margin from its 41 hotels in the year to 1 October, taking the return on sales to just shy of 30 per cent.

Impressive in itself, that figure compares with the 17 per cent that Forte, the market leader, managed to extract from its hotel assets in its most recent figures. Although Forte should have been able to improve on that this year, there is clearly a lot more to go for, particularly in its Post House chain, which broadly competes with Stakis.

Conversely, it leaves the Scottish group with a problem created by its own success. The indigestion caused by overextension in the 1980s has been cured by new management, taking the shares from a low of 21p in 1992 to a peak of over 90p, hit in April last year. But since the beginning of the year, they have underperformed the FT All Share by close to 20 per cent as the market ques-tions where Stakis goes from here.

Yesterday's results provided only some of the answers. Pre-tax profits rose 28 per cent to £25.8m, on turnover 19 per cent ahead at £173m. Hotels provided the engine of growth, boosted by profits up 26 per cent to £31.2m on the back of rises in both occupancy and room

The five units acquired during the year are all contributing and capital spending on the existing portfolio is being

stepped up.
Meanwhile, as forewarned in October's trading statement, casinos did badly, with profits dipping from £12.5m to £11.7m, an underlying fall of £1.7m stripping out acquisitions. The fall in the "drop", the amount punters spend on chips, was blamed on the Lottery, the hot mmer and visitor charges, which have

now been withdrawn.
Group profits of £30m this year would put the shares at 79p, down 3p, on a forward multiple of 14. With the tax charge

Simon Pincombe CITY DIARY

Corporate trauma is not over until the fat lady....

Lord Young of Graffham is spotted amid scenes of murder, mayhem and treachery. This time, however, the oust-ed chairman of Cable & Wireless is enjoying a perfor-mance of Puccini's Tosca at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden - with the obligatory youthful female companion.

Not that it is unusual to see the former Cabinet minister and director of Salomon Brothers in the company of a bunch of prima donnas. The man who once boasted that he worked at C&W and lunched at Salomons is a director of the Royal Opera House Trust. Besides, a man needs a break from the rigours of negotiating a massive redundancy package.

However, Lord Young was not the only outgoing chairman in the audience. Not eight feet away sat Michael Jackaman, who on Monday stood down as chairman of Allied Domecq. Both looked suitably recovered from their respective traumas.

So! Only a piffling 0.4 per cent of the proxies cast at yes terday's Granada extraordinary general meeting were against approving the bid for Forte. Could this represent the combined voting power of Granada shareholders Sir Anthony Tennant, the Old Etonian chairman of Christies International, and George Proctor? Both, you understand, are on Forte's board. We should be told.

The feeling in accountancy circles is that the Inland Revenue is planning a series of benders over the festive season. Andrew Shaw, a partner with Kingston Smith, writes to tell us that the vampires have increased the tax-free

room rate as the lowest temperature in the city that day. Given that the West Coast temperature is often in the 40s at this time of year, it comes as no surprise that the exercise has proven a big attraction. The hotel's normal room rate is

Among the prima donnas: Lord Young of Graffham deals with the difficulties of redundancy

limit for Christmas parties. Strictly speaking, any staff party gives rise to a taxable benefit for those attending. However, the Revenue operates a concession where the benefit is not taxed if the expenditure on the bash is kept below certain levels. The £50a-head limit is now raised to £75. And it gets better. The Revenue is now allowing companies to split the expenditure between more than one annual event, opening the way for tax-free parties throughout the year.

"No doubt the tax inspectors were planning their own Christmas parties and re-alised the costs involved," uggests Mr Shaw.

A courageous joke. The Revenue is not known for its sense of humour and the accountant can more than likely look forward to a thorough investigation of his affairs.

The San Francisco Airport Hilton continues to blaze a trail on the marketing front with a promotion that London can only dream about. The 527-room hotel is charging guests the same

Not the sort of thing that the Hilton management can con-template at Heathrow. It would have been paying guests £7 a night for the last week.

Pearson shares rose vesterday on the news of the boardroom shakeup which should see. inter alia, the arrival of John Makinson in the finance director's chair. Pearson has not yet confirmed the ap-pointment - and quite right too. It is probably still trying to establish that the former Financial Times hack is no longer in possession of his original calculator.

Gits Indica

It transpires that when he was a lowly mortal writing the FT's company analysis Mr Makinson gained a reputation for being incapable of calculating a price/earnings ratio correctly. "He insisted on using this lousy calculator," rerealed a former colleague.

The City is taken to the cleaners as Cambridge put on an error-strewn display at Twickenham for the rughy union varsity match. The spread betters had the light blues as firm favourites, offering a contract for a Cambridge win by a margin of eight to 11 points. In the end Cambridge scraped home 21 points to 19.

One bookie, Sporting Index, took 500 bets at an average of £20 a point. That's a good chunk of this year's bonuses down the pan already. And with only one

MING WALL RIVER

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read by George Baker or Mandarm, read by George Baker Emily Bronto, Wutherling Heights, read by Mertin Shaw Joseph Conrad, Victory, read by Simon Callow Charles Dickens, David Copperfield, read by Paul Scofield Greham Greene, Stamboul Train, read by Roddy McDowell Harriet Baecher Stowe, Uncle Tom's Cablin, read by Ricco Ross Arthur Miller, The Crucible,

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British Land issue in danger

TOM STEVENSON Deputy City Editor

British Land shrugged off worries in the City yesterday that the property company, Britain's second largest, is struggling to get a £222m placing away. The share issue at 370p, designed to reduce gearing of well over 100 per cent, closes tomorrow and looked in danger with the shares closing last night at just 368p.

The placing of 62 million shares was underwritten by SBC Warburg and UBS at the issue price although, as is usual practice, they both laid off most of the risk with subunderwriters on the day the is-

sue was announced. The recent slide in British Land's shares remeated in the company may have over-reached itself with the acquisition, amnounced last month, of the half of London's Broadgate office demolecoment that it did not already maintain Land only only on the shares, John Ritblat, British Land's chairman, painted a relatively bright picture of group prospects. "Over 80 per cent of our portfolio will have been acquired in the last seven debts in the scheme, the interest on which is still not covered by rental income.

When the placing was an-nounced, the shares stood 6 per cent higher than the issue price, giving shareholders an incentive to participate on the basis of one new share for every six held. Since then, however, the slide in the shares has eroded the discount.

The Broadgate acquisition, which British Land had pursued for two years, was the latest in a sequence of purchases that helped drive gross rents in the growing by only six months to September 31 per year to March.



confident about prospects

cent higher to £108.7m. During the first half year, profits in-creased 5.6 per cent to £18.9m

years, the majority of those pur-chases having been in well located City offices, superstores, retail warehouses and leisure investments, all with good prospects for

long-term rental growth." British Land has been one of the most successful property investment companies during and since the recession, mainly because, unlike many of its peers, it entered the slump with low borrowings and so was able to take on properties at attractive prices. Its growth has slowed recently, however, with net assets growing by only 1 per cent in the

	COMPA	NY RESULT	[8	
	Tamover £	Pre-tax £	EPS	Dividend
Bertaley Group (I)	146m (129m)	19.0m (17.Zm)	16.4p (15.4p)	2.3p (2.1p)
Bradsdeck (F)	33.4m (32.7m)	6.1m (8.2m)	5.0p (8.9p)	5.79 (5.79)
British Land (1)	-(-)	18.9m (17.9m)	2.5p (2p)	2.78p (2.64p)
Cray Electronics (I)	129m) (135m)	-14.6m (TD.1m)	-6.3n (3p)	nk (1p)
Estrocapy (F)	24.2m (25.6m)	4.21m (3.61m)	5.66p (4.87p)	3.3p (2p)
Halma (I)	20.2m (70.5m)	14.4m (12.5m)	3 61p (3.15p)	1.006p (0.84p)
Heaters Armiey (F)	49.8m (41,1m)	4.07m (3.46m)	10.51p (10.81p)	4.50p (4p)
Berthern Electric (I)	430m (491m)	58.7m (63.4m)	8 8p (43.8p) ·	12p (10.85p)
Place Property (I)	13.8m (11.2m)	1.1m (0.03m)	îp (0.1p)	1.5p (nli)
Protees (I)	29.3m (23.8m)	194m (2.71m)	6 <i>9</i> 7p (5.3p)	1.6p (1.29p)
Statis (F)	173m (148m)	25.8m (20.2m)	4.93p (4.27p)	1.75p (1.55p)
Vancx Group (P) .	280au (244au)	31 &ra (29.3m)	17. 93 p (16.5p)	17. 93 p (9.85p)
(f) - Roal (f) - Interior	(M) - Niete montes			

IN BRIEF

Cray Electronics confirms loss

whose shares have collapsed following a series of profits warnings this year, confimed yesterday that it had made a £14.6m loss in the six months to October. The loss compares with a £10m profit in the same period last year. The problems were due mainly to costs and provisions incurred at Cray Communications, the computer network subsidiary, which recorded a £4.8m loss in the

The new chairman, Alec Daly, made a cautiously optimistic statement, saying that though turnover was 5 per cent lower, orders were ahead of last year. The shares closed 0.5p higher at 47.5p yesterday.

Slim profit for clothing manufacturer

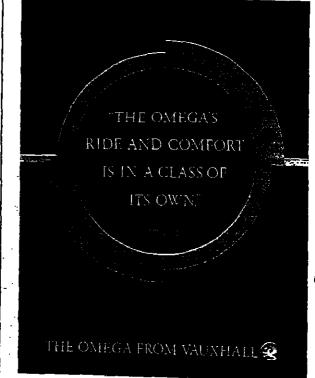
The hot summer and sluggish high street sales have savaged profits at Slimma, the manufacturer which specialises in clothes for larger customers. Profits for the year to September slumped to £33,000 from £1m last year and the dividend has been halved to 1.3p. Margins were lower due to a shift in the sales mix towards supplying more multiple retailers. Mail order sales were also down. The company says it has reduced overheads by selling a smaller factory and is keen to exploit its export business.

Eurocopy makes headway

Profits at Eurocopy, the photocopying group that recently called off takeover discussions, were up from £3.6 to £4.2m in the year to September. The chairman, Cyril Gay, said restructuring within the industry presented the group with unique opportunities to expand. The final dividend was increased from 2p to 2.3p.

Travis Perkins buys builders' merchants

Travis Perkins, the builders' merchants, is paying £14m for BMSS, which operates a chain of 26 timber and builders' merchants in the West Midlands, Wales and Greater Manchester areas. The cash offer is worth 153p per share. In the year to January, BMSS reported pre-tax profits of £706,000 on sales of £18.6m. The location of its branches complements those of Travis Perkins which are principally in the South-east and Midlands.



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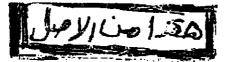
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market report/shares

Investors continue to hang up on BT as worries grow

Investors are continuing to hang up on BT, the Govern-over spree is also taking its toll. adventure. The shares fell a further 4.5p to 343.5p, lowest

share price collapsing from a year's high of 414p, as many small shareholders decided to snatch their profits before they disappeared.

ning to look like a staid old giindustry's smaller players.
With BT's margins under

ment's biggest privatisation Cable and Wireless, still reeling from the boardroom up-heaval, is rumoured to be one for three years.

The telecoms giant has been is it will buy Cable's controlling

most popular. But Whitehall ant, termented by many of the could decide to block BT dialling for full control.

BT is not, however, the only

disappeared.

BT's increasingly rough relationship with the industry regulator is worrying the group, as would – of the possible deals would – of the possible deals have talked about – be the

MARKET REPORT

DEREK PAIN Stock market reporter of the year

ket today.

year's low. The group is beset by its deep-rooted image prob-lems as well as the ramifications of its long term gas contracts.

And just to underline what a poor day it was for privatitin Sorrell, who has made insation shares Rolls-Royce fell 2p to its 175p sale price while British Steel retreated another 3.5p to 158p compared with a 125p flotation. Rolls, in early trade, touched 180p on talk of BMW share buying, British Steel continued to feel the ward to 211p and British Aero-

tinction of the best blue-chip gain. up 10p at 365p.

The Camelot contingent felt the blast of Panorama. Cad- from Travis Perkins. bury Schweppes slipped 2.5p to 548.5. De La Rue 9p to 660p and Racal Electronics 9p to 268p. Whispers of a Swiss bid lifted Rexam 9p to 337p but Vickers, where some have talked confidently of take over

gains. The death of Sir David Lighthown MP, cutting the Government's majority to five, could further unsettle the maraction, fell 8p to 274p.
BTG, the old British Technology Group, had an eventful run, following its trading WPP, the advertising group, edged ahead 1p to 152p. Marstatement and dividend forevestment presentations in cast. The shares surged 200p to Scotland this week, purchased 1.120p. The shares were floated at 225p in the summer. Alba, the consumer electrical 100,000 shares at 150p and now has 2.5 million shares, repregroup, gained 15p to 282p fol-lowing its investment dinner;

troleum, in talks. 21p to 89p. BMSS rose 32p to 150p following an agreed £14m offer reshaped and Peel Hunt, the

AMEC stuck at 100p as hostile bidder Kvaerner lifted its holding to 22.55 per cent. Wassall, the conglomerate,

improved 6p to 245p after a positive meeting with Hen-derson Crosthwaite. Barton eased 2p to 128p as Societe Generale Strauss Turnbull said the shares were expensive. Sims, the food group, fell 3p

to 35p on the continuing BSE uncertainty. There is, however, talk of bid action. Whitehurch - a meat products group headed by Barry Cox, ex-Hard Rock Cate - is said to be contemplating a strike.

United Energy, the oil tiddler, held at 11p. It has been stockbroker, expects year's profits to emerge at £100,000 against a £360,000 loss and estimates asset value at 17p. The group's interests are mainly in the US where it is seeking to add to its operations. It has its eye on moving into power generation in this

☐ Dealings are due to start on AIM next week in the shares of Polymasc, a fledgling biotech operation, hived off from the Royal Free Hospital medical school in Hampstead. Teather & Greenwood, the stockbroker. has placed shares at 100p.

	With BT's margins under pressure and the stock market's profit forecasts looking less positive there is plenty of room for disenchantment. The nagging suspicion that	pinch as the stock market trades near its highest level. British Gas, another under the influence of lower interest	space staged a modest revival. up 11p at 788p. Oils flared on the firming crude price; British Petroleum crude price; British Petroleum	Sims has been having a lean time and looks vulnerable. Profits have been hit and in the first half of its current year it produced £150,000 against £1.2m. Three years ago the
	MASS Stock Price Cop Ynd PSE Cook Hope Low Stock Price Cop Ynd PSE Cop Ynd Ynd PSE Cop Ynd Ynd PSE Cop Ynd	1 p at 227.5p, perilously near its New York display eroded sugs sugs blook Princip Vid PE Code Page Long Stock Princip Vid PE Code Page Long Stock Princip Vid PE Code Page Long Stock Princip Vid PE Code Page Long Vid	BASS State: Price Chy Yid PE Code High Low S	shares hit 339p. trading. SHARE PRICE DATA
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Maktoum man questions Race Day plan

Breeders' Cup came last night from a leading adviser to the racing," Goodbody warned.

powerful Maktoum family. Michael Goodbody, stud manager to Maktoum al Maktoum, said a European Race Day could never match the prestige of the Breeders' Cup. Goodbody, speaking at the Gimcrack Dinner on behalf of

the Sheikh (whose Royal Ap-plause won this year's Gimcrack Stakes at York), also called for NAP: Nazzaro (Bangor 3.00) a breeders' representative on the British Horseracing Board **NB: Duhallow Lodge** (Exeter 2.15) and an increase in prize mon-cy. But he stressed that his com-

addition of a European Race ments on issues which he Day would certainly have a negative effect on both these top 'not necessarily the views of the class day's racing in Europe." Maktourn family".

He described the Race Day, planned for September 1997, as wards the Race Day (Germany

ily Jowners of good performers including Repeat The Dose as well as Rough Quest] to train their horses on their premises at Beare Green," Casey said "David Nicholson is an employed trainer in the same way as I am, though obviously on a

Greg Wood reports on a stable in Surrey's stockbroker belt aiming its top steeplechaser at Saturday's big race at Ascot

Cup at Ascot, and David Nicholson, the champion trainer, is not immediately apparent. Nicholson's string, stabled with-in a few miles of Cheltenham ithere, because they're proper self, touches three figures, while

> and in Rough Quest he has a horse to repay all his efforts. Successful at the Festival

meetings at both Cheltenham and Punchestown last term, Rough Quest finished runnerup to Couldnt Be Better in the Hennessy Gold Cup – his first completed run of the new campaign - and is the ante-post favourite for Saturday's £30,000 race at Ascot.

Quest is still improving and much bigger scale, and I've got a wonderful set-up without the casey is already planning a re-

March. Nor is a repeat victory the race." Rough Quest hit the in the Ritz Club Chase the front with almost a circuit of the height of his ambition. "He's a track to go and was passed going to the last fence. progressive horse who really

fully, throughout this season. since Nicky Henderson's stable, his principal retainer, does not house an outstanding threemile chaser at present.

set a good pace, and with a 9lb pull on Couldnt Be Better for as they were quickening up. Nor was the Hennessy run to the 14 lengths he was beaten at Newbury. Rough Quest must have every chance of reversing place in the Gold Cup he suremust do so.

Few contenders for chasing's greatest prize hail from Dorkabout his move from the more



Casey: Quest for Gold Cup

deed, his latest stable is the fifth of a training career which has also seen a spell as private trainer to John Upson, while his apprenticeship, both as rider and handler, included employment with Aubrey Brabazon and Paddy Mullins.

Now, though, Casey seems to the form. To be worthy of a have found a secure base in the stockbroker belt from which to plot his campaigns. The trainer himself is not a gambling man, but if the locals wake up to the sound investment in their midst, the 3-1 price for

Changes usher in new ball game

sport

Rugby League DAVE HADFIELD

At St Helens, Wigan and seven other professional rugby league grounds tonight, it will be a whole new hall game. The first tranche of games played under four new rules is bound to produce teething problems and Britain is undeniably being used as a guinea pig by the Super

League in Australia. The guinea pig might stagger around the laboratory for a while, but, provided it does not actually die. Super League on both sides of the globe will kick off under these rules in March.

Two of them carry fairly obvious benefits. Moving scrums 20 metres from touch opens up greater attacking opportunities and making the side that scores kick off to give the opposition possession promises to even up contests. It is also in line with most other sports," says the League's director of referees coaching, Greg McCallum. That is significant when we come to promoting the game in America and Asia.

Wigan's coach, Graeme West, is understandably wary of a rule change that also seems aimed at bringing them back to the pack, but there will be a general welcome for both these moves.

Less easy to assess is the effect of the rule changes at the play-the-ball, where striking for the ball by the side not in possession will be outlawed and the tackled player will not be allowed to tap the ball forward to himself, even if there is no marker in position. It will clean up a traditional problem area. but will it leave something that still looks like rugby league? Steve Simms, whose badly in-

jury-weakened Halifax side are at Wigan tonight, will still base his strategy around the possibility of the tackled player regaining possession, even if he has to play the ball backwards. turn around, pick it up and then run upfield. "And we haven t struck for the ball for a while. because it's a waste of time for

the amount you get back."
One fear, particularly in the lower divisions, is that a game already too quick for many of its participants could get quicker still. Ian Lucas, who will under the new rules for the first time against Doncaster tonight. believes the effect could be the opposite. "There is no point in the tackled player springing to his feet if he can't take advantage of there being no marker." he says.

The full implications will not be clear until games have been played under the new rules, "We will know by the end of next week whether they are going to work," McCallum says.

Waiting in the wings are three other rules the Australians would have liked us to try - allowing ball-stealing in one-to-one situations, time off for goal kicks and unlimited substitutions. The latter two would take the game much too far in the direction of American football for almost anyone in Britain's comfort.

The changes which arrive tonight will make it all look quite unfamiliar enough, but, as Simms says: "At least we all get the ball back when Wigan Great Britain's third Super

League international against Australia on 20 October could be under threat, following New Zealand's insistence that they have been guaranteed a match against Australia on the same

day.
Hull Kingston Rovers have signed two World Cup players from Papua New Guinea: the centre, John Okul, 23, and the stand-off, Stanley Gine, 22.

Widnes are considering a formal complaint over Graeme West's accusation that they narrowed their pitch for last Saturday's Regal Trophy tie against Wigan.
The first representative

match between the Civil Service and the RAF will take place at the Civil Service Sports Ground in Chiswick this afternoon.

★THE INDEPENDENT Horse Racing Results 0839 - 111 171 Commentary 0839 - 111 175



Criticism of plans for a Euro- the racing authorities and racepean version of America's course management to en-

> "One only has to look at the attendance on the Saturday Prix de l'Arc weekend in Paris or the Festival racing day at Ascot, where both meetings have top class racing, to see that the

> > RICHARD EDMONDSON

'a wonderful concept" but is favourite to stage the inaugural meeting), the cash would be better spent within the inalready busy pattern race pro-gramme. "It is hard enough for dustry in Britain.

financial pressure of some other trainers. There's never been any pressure since I've been

Casey secure in caring

for a Rough diamond

racing people and they know the game inside out." Casey oversees fewer than 20 Knowing that finding new horses near Dorking in Surrey. owners is not the most impor-Both men, however, awake each morning with the com-forting knowledge that, whattant task in his life allows Casey to devote himself to his string, ever else may happen, a salary cheque will be waiting for them

"I'm a public trainer but I'm also retained by the Wates fam-

At nine years of age, Rough

Fitzgerald will be back in the seemed to find his form in the plate on Saturday and, hopespring last year, and we'd hope

to run him in the Gold Cup." the trainer says. "He ran very well at Newbury for a horse who hadn't really got a run under his belt, because he fell at a crucial stage in his pre-vious race at Cheltenham, just With Young Hustler sure to

suit Rough Quest, who is best when held up for a late run and has formed a very profitable partnership with Mick Fitzgerald. The Irishman, however, was suspended for the Newbury race, and Jamie Osborne, his replacement, was "a bit unlucky",

2.00 ST. HELENS FORD NOVICE CHASE (CLASS D) £5,500 added 2m 4f 110yds Penalty Value

14-1 Amy's Boy, Quite A Man, 20-1 others

FORM GUIDE

HEBRIDEAN, a classy staying hunder, took to lences at the first time of asking, besting stablemets King Luciler in pleasing style at Worcester 16 days ago. Hebridean could easily tim out to be one of the top hooke chasers this season and will be a pretty short price to defy a penalty in a face that provides less competition than he faced at Worcester. Best of the others is probably Hewidfield, who cheed home another smart hunder-turned-chaser, Calisce Bay, at Utioneter three weeks ago. Hawidfield should have benefited from that first outing in 13 months and teal more at home out this enter four and a half furfores. Most

13 months and feel more at home over this extra four and a half furlongs. It

J.3 morths and reel more at nome over this extra four and a hart jurioniss. Most of the nowice chasers that have won for Gordon Richards this season did so first time out, so Passonas Boy could be fairly forward on his first run since pulling up lame behind Dortin Castle at Catterfok in February. He was numming an improved race in first-time blinkers that day but goes without the headgear this time. Parsons Boy is a half-brother to General Command, the winner of three chases for the stable already this season, and Parsons Boy might do better himself now his tackless ferroces.

RED COAT CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HANDICAP HER-2.30 RED COR CURRENTION AND ACTION TO THE Penalty Val-

according to Casey. "They went no pace and he was jumping so well that he jumped his way into

ing, but Casey has no regrets traditional jumping country of Rough Quest on Saturday will Lambourn in June 1994. In-

3.00 MAESFEN HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E) £6,000 added 4m 1f Penalty Value £4,319

Minimum weight: 10st. True handicap weights: Hey Cottage Six 12th, Very Cheering Six 7th,

Minimum weigh: 10st. True handicap weights: Hey Cottage Sist 12in, Very Cheering 9st 7th. Court 5yegess.

BETTING: 7-2 Keano, 4-1 Habton Whith, 5-1 Florida Sky, 6-1 Diamond Fort, 15-2 Sunley Bay, 8-1 Marta, Nazzaro, 14-1 Restlato, 20-1 others
FORM GUIDE

With 16 runners, it was a competitive race in which HABTON WHIDI made his reappearance and he must be fitter for a reappearance run behind High Padre at Newcestje. With Peter Eastesty's horses bid-ing over nicely, Habton Whiti should run well in this marathon, bearing in mind he was beaten only a neck and half a length when third to Pink Gin in the Lincoinshire National over this trip last Boxing Day. Diamond Fort was pulled up on that occasion, and on his first nin of the season at Chepstow, but is another with the necessary stamina and could do better here. He was runner-up to Tertan Tyrant at Haydock on his second run last term after being pulled up a fortingit earlier. Florida Sky got no further than the first at Towcester last time but is better judged on an earlier Chettenham with hom Talbot and could easily bounce back here. He probably has more room for improvement than most of these after being off at last season. Richard Dunyoody, who won on Nazzaron at Newton Abbot (where Keano dd not give his time running), sweethes to Narifa, who is unitred at this tip but promises to stay and is well worth considering with her stable going so well.

		ue £2,696	SCIENCIAN (PEDICH WIN
2 522 3 0/0/4 00/5 5 5 6 200 7 210 7 210 9 326 10 217 11 1	213P 650-0 34P0 340- 216, 3550 5500 9P0- 550- 3-1, 0-1 B	THROWER (5) (Mar. Owen) B Presce 4 11 12	2 05- 3 3 4 5 4 6 7 8 9 10 44 11 00	YELLOW COLLAR OPEN NH FLAT RACE (CLASS H) £2,000 added 2m 1f Penalty Value £1,711 60LDEN DRUM (14) (BF) (Howard Parker) J Edwards 5 11 11R Johnson (3) CAREY'S COTTAGE (211) (Cottage Parmers) J Edwards 5 11 14Mr M Daby (7) DENHAM HELL (18) (J E Brown) (Mare 4 11 4
when th	ey w	ELITE has a 4lb pull for the half-length that Chris's Glen beat her ere fifth and soth behind Most Equal at Leicester last time out, but	13 0 14	KAYTU'S CAROUSEL (Miss & C Gibbons) Miss Venetia Williams 6 10 13
what mi	ight I	help her more is being back on this easier track, where she beat.		R Ferrent

0-5 ONE MORE DIME (36) (J. Needham) J. Needham 5 10 13 JMr R Thomson BDC ASE O. W Transis S Transis (37 4) ROC ASE (M W Daves) G Daves 4 10 13 - 17 declared -! Golden Dram, 5-1 The Stitcher, 6-1 Deskars Hill,

- 17 declared BETTING: 4-1 Debits Freddy, 9-2 Golden Dram, 5-1 The Stitcher, 6-1 Desham Hill,
8-1 Gastafut, 10-1 My Cheeky Man, Raise And Gain, 14-1 others
FORM GUIDE
THE STITCHER, birrkered for his debut at Ayr, did better at Hecham three weeks
ago without the headgear, running Nortic Prince to three parts of a length. Nortic
Prince had won at Worcester beforehand. Line The Suncher, Goarsfut and Golden Drum are more or less guaranteed fit after finishing fourth and fifth, only a
neck apart, in the Hereford race won by Badger's Lane. All three have the beneff of expenence, although lack of a previous outing has not stopped Dawd Nicholson winning his share of these races with newcomers, so Dublin Freddy and
My Cheeky Man must be respected.

BANGOR

HYPERION 12.30 Hong Kong Designer 2.30 Frontier Flight 1.00 VILLAGE REINDEER (nap) 3.00 Nazzaro

GOING: Hurdes - Good; Clases - Good to Soft (Good in places). Left-hand, undulating course; run-in 325yde.

Racecourse is 4 miles south-cast of Wrezham near junction of A525 and B0689. Bas service from Wrezham railway station. ADMISSION: Paddock 58; Course \$4 (under-16s free all enclosures). CAR PARK: Free.

SIS BACHE CHANNEL

personally wanted to raise were

questioned its imposition on an

2.00 Hebridean

LEADING TRAINERS: G Richards — 27 winners from 113 runners gives a success ratio of 23.0% and a loss to a 31 level stake of 530.66; M Pipe — 20 winners, 71 numers, 23.2%, ~\$12.42; N Twiston-Davies — 15 winners, 66 numers, 22.7%, *\$6.53 J White — 11 winners, 27 numers, 34.4%, \$2.55. M LEADING JOCKETS: R Damwoody — 26 winners, 83 numers, 31.2%, \$2.52. A Magnire — 13 winners, 76 rides, 17.1%, \$13.45; D Bridgwater — 11 winners, 66 rides, 16.2%, \$11.22; N Williamson — 10 winners, 46 rides, 91.7%, \$11.25. WINNERS IN LAST SEVEN DAYS: Nome

LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS: Earar (1.30) has been sent 212 miles by R Rowe from Startington, West Sussex. 12.30 TOTE PLACEPOT NOVICE SELLING HURDLE (CLASS F) £2,600 added 2m 1f Penalty Value £2,152

U	ISALLYRAS (18) (1 C Parsons) R Paney 4 11 5
0	BERTS CHOICE (28) (W Sanderson) K Bodgweiter 4 11.5S Joynes (7)
0	BICKERTON POACHER (74) (D McCain D McCain 5 11 5 D McCain
	JAMAUCA BRIDGE (Billy Parizer) S Norton 5 11.5 D Pours
000-P0	MOMENT OF RISTICE (34) (G A Martin) L Jungo 4 11 5 TReed
	BOBBLE'S GERL (15) (Mrs Alune O'Suthan) J O'Shen 5 11 0 D Byrne
UCC.	REAL POPCORN (89) (BF) (Poer Backey) W Junios 4 11 0
00-00	RUCRUT (19) (R Loughton) B Presco 5 11 0
6	GOOD SO FA (5) (Mrs.) Williams) C Allen 3 10 5 6 Lee (3)
	GRANAURE (O J Stokes) W G M Turner 3 10 5A Thornton
	HAMBLITON SILK (Naydock Exhibitions Lie) M Meagher 3 (0 5 B Hambing (3)
₹.	HONG KONG DESIGNER (31) (Group 1 Recorg) A James 3 10 5 W Marston
	MORTHERN TROVE (Cade Ltd) Ronald Thompson 3 10 5W Pry
60	ROSCOMMON UAD (5) (Mass S Holizobead) R Holizobead 3 10 5
	M W Mortin (7)
	RASY KOO (20) (N D Alsopi P Bevan 3 10.0T Bey
	LADY LANCER dencer UK (us) Callen 3 100
	RACREEL ARM (20) (W D Mores) J M Bracky 3 to 0R Johnson (5)
P	SHARP HOLLY (20) (D Spenceley) J Bornest 3 10 0C Uowallys
٠.	18 declared -

: 7-2 Granique, 4-1 Resi Popcors, 6-1 Ba signer, 12-1 Hawilton Silk, 14-1 others

Proc. 12-1 manufactures satisficated FORM GUIDE BALLYRAG, winner over a mile on the Fist in France as a three-year-old, will have learned something from his run behind Coloniel in Chief at Kelso and might be good errough to make the most of the drop in days, Brantique could be a bugger threat than most, despite his inexperience. At least he comes here in fair form having won a 10-funtoring seller on the alt-weather at Lingfield towards the end of November when trained by Belgium-based Paul Smith. Like Bellying, Hamilton Sike, Jameites Bridge and Good So Fe was soon in trouble when tined over hundles at Fakenham last week but Hamilton Sik stayed further and has Gordon Richards's good condisional, Brant Harding, on board. From a stammer point-of-wew, Jameica Bridge might be worth the benefit of the doubt in this company, it was a bad race in which Real Popcora was second to Blessed Chier at Ludlow but the trip might have been too far for her. A hard-pulling fely, Real Popcora made virtually all when winning a claimer at Cattenck in July last year and might not be easy to peg back if she sets off in front over this shorter trip.

WYNNSTAY HUNT SUPPORTERS HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS D) £5,500 added 2m 4f 110yds Penalty Value £3,794

The similarity between Terry Casey, who will saddle Rough

Quest in Saturday's Betterware

at the end of each month.

CHANGE THE ACT (27) (0) (C Foley) Mass Venetra Williams 10 12 0.....R Davis

33122-4 MAN OF THE GRANGE (27) (C) (D) (R J Marshall) W Clay 9 11 5 __R Farrant 304014 FAST CRUSE (263) (CD) (Miss T Patell E Onto jun 1.0 10 10. Richard Guest 9 BP3P4P- OPAL'S TENSPOT (299) (Miss Joy Marks) J M Bradley & 10 2 . R Johnson (3)

9 BF3P4P- GPAL'S TENSPOT (299) (Akss Joy Mailes) J M Bradley 8 10 2 .R Johnson (8)

- 9 declared
BETING: 5-2 Precipitor Run, 7-2 Cleange The Act, 4-1 Williage Relanders, 7-1 Fast Croise,
8-1 Waterford Castle, 10-1 Two Step Reptime, Distinctive, 12-1 others

FORM GUIDE

Villagie Richndeer's war over hundles at Nelso kooks a good effort with the numer-up, Great Easeby, going one better at Heydock on Saturday. Provided that hard-fought Ketso success has not lieft its mark, Village Reindeer could be difficult to best back over fences, although he will have to jump better than he did in the two chases he contested after winning a little race at Sedgelfield on his reappearance last season. Perhaps the problem with Village Reindeer is his in-expenence, as this is only his fifth race over fences, WATERFORD CASTLE also has a but to learn, having falser at Newton Abbot tast month. The selection, who has hed just three races over fences, won his only start two seasons ago for Andy Turnell, but did not shape badly at Newton Abbot considering he missed all of last season. He could be better off over this shorter trp after faling to cope with Court Melody (winner since) at Worcester. Waterford Castle gets 211b from with Court Melody (winner since) at Worcester. Waterford Castle gets 21th from Village Reindeer and that might just be enough if first-time blinkers have the de-sard effect. Precipice Rism is in good shape at present and he must come into the rectioning with Richard Duriwoody taking the inde. on: WATERFORD CASTLE

Į.	1 30	ASTBURY WREN HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS I
Ŀ		£7,000 added 3m Penalty Value £4,85	2
1	5414-PP	100H SCAVAR (21) (Abs & A Tumbul) D Mother & 11 10	D J 1606
2	51-1433	. CLIFTON SET (29) (Mrs Christine Fernell C Marin 4 11 3	_R Desputo
3	06-4131	PHARANEAR (21) (Staniess Fasteness) D Micholson 5 (0 10	W Marsi
4	13-4621	KARAR (21) (D) (Mrs Mangaget Sampson) R Rome 5 10 5	D 0'Spills
5	13/1-065	DISSINGTON DENE (4) IDA & W Wyller J Norson 6 10 5	#
5	P0236P	LERICHDE (371) (D) (Mrs 5 J Le Gras) M Meagner 10 10 0	
7	111/0P0	HAPPY HORSE (6) (D) (Major I Maximg) R Hodges 8 10 0 T	Descombé i
В	3313-03	KADAR (7) (H Cleviowi W Clay 6 10 0	R Johnson
		- 8 declared -	

ton Dece, 20-1 Linksids, 25-1 others FORM GUIDE

set, who has yet to run a poor race this sea ner for Richard Durawoody this afternoon and Karar must make his presence telt after his improved performance to bear 17 others at Chepstow three weeks ago. Both are well suited by three miles or more but, on this course, PHARAMEAR is Both are well suited by three miles or more but, on this course, PHARANEAR is well worth enrother chance at the trip. His earlier attempt at three miles was in the Crepstow nowce won by Pleasure Shered, but that was also his first outing since moving from Aidan O'Brien to Dawd Nicholson and may just have been needed. Pharanear might have been a bit fortunate to win on a return trip to Crepstow (Eulogy was in front and still going incely when he came down two out), although he and subsequent Towcester winner Buckhouse Boy pulled wed clear of the others. The selection is relatively inexpenenced over hundles, and can improve. Look Scaweig has not taken to cheshing so should appreciate being back over hundles. The mare won under a similar big weight at Ayr in April, but whether she can do the same here depends on how the reacts to wearing a visor for the first time. sor for the first time.
Selection: PHARANEAR

FORM GLIDE STEADFAST ELITE has a 4lib pull for the helf-length that Chris's Gless best her when they were fifth and soth behind Most Equal at Leocester last time out, but what might help her more is being back on this easier track, where she best subsequent Sedgefield winner, Backley Boys, a conflorable length and three-quarters on her previous start. The form of that Leicester roce has not worked out badly, because the second and third, Salssong any vicerby Ruler, both came out to wan at Felerahem tast Thursday. Fromtier Flight, but himself out of contention with a bed mistake at the fourth in Mir Monterty's race at Doncuster on Finday. Otherwise he has not done much wrong this season and is far from out of it. 38! Precede and Gerard Hogan were the trainer and jokey when Fromber Flight won at Worcestar in September and they will not be far away if Thrower can put behind him a moderate effort at Lucidov last time. The first ground, rather than the trip, might have been responsible for that, as Thrower ran well in staying handicaps on the Flat in September and again when beating all bar Absalom's Piller in a big feet at Market Rasen. Badewi would not be the first to come good when making a handicap debut but would not want the ground to deteriorate, it was good when he was a fair that to Encore tin Peu linst time over hurdes and fest when he did best on the Flat (in sellers when litted with binkers). **Maguire ready for Ascot return**

Adrian Maguire, who rode out on Saturday, though Northern within half a length of a second day in succession yes-Saturday, Dave Roberts, the ockey's agent, said later.

fully recovered from the hand terday morning, will be back on and shoulder injuries which

for boss David Nicholson for the -based rider Tony Dobbin, now £270,000 payout for 20p after picking the first four winners at Wolverhampton yesterday. But temporarily severed his part- his fifth selection, Rousitto. nership with One Man, expects was pipped at the post leaving Maguire expects to be on to return at Catterick on Friday. him to settle for just £25,481 for

zoor Sayadan 2.15 Romany Creek 2.45 Royal Ag Nag (nb) 3.15 Tight Fist GOING: Good (Good to Firm in a few places).

Eight-hand, unduisting course. Stiff test. Run-in of 250 yards.

Rececourse is 5 miles south-west of Exeter on A38. Exeter (St. Davids) is on main Loadon (Paddington) to Cornwall rulway line.

ADMISSION: Crandstand & Paddock 59; Silver Eing \$4.50 (accompanied under-166 free). CAB PARE: \$2 on rails; \$2 members; remainder free.

WINNERS IN LAST SEVEN DATS: Romany Creek (2.15) won at Leicester on Wednesday. LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS: Laiss Akura (1.45) has been sent 206 miles by W Cay from Saverley Green, Staffs.

HYPERION 12.45 Little Hooligan 1.15 Ground Nut 1.45 Man-

1	245	WESTCOUNTRY TV CLAIMING HURDL (CLASS F) £2,800 added 2m 2f
1		BILLY BARTER (12) G Baiding 5 11 8
2	131123	MORDIC YALLEY (6) (C) M Pipe 4 11 8 D Bridgeral
3	06-	LONZA VALLEY (314) () Gardoto 6 11 4
4	34-1121	NORTHERN STARLIGHT (20) R Baker 4 11 4M A Filograph
5	P12023	LITTLE HOOLIGAN (20) (C) G Edwards 4 11 0 A P NeC
6	5-OUUPF	DONT RISE ME (6) M Chartres 6 10 12
7	0-0	THE CAUFFER (B) C Nech 4 10 12
8	40013-5	FLEUR DE TAL (6) (G) W G M Turner 4 10 9 T Marphy
9		STONY MISSELE W G Turner 6 10 9Mr Richard White
10	4P046/3	COOCHE (34) R Baker 6 10 3 B Pow
ũ	0	DUNLITY (20) 5 Cole 4 10 1
_		= 11 declared =

[L15	BBC RADIO DEVON NOVICE CI (CLASS D) £5,000 added 2m 2f	
1	11Ŧ	MASTER RICON (22) R Ainer 7 11 7	ı
2	01/05-	BLUE COCTOR (266) R Hogges 5 21 0	-
3	06P/F	BROWN ROBBER (20) Mrs. R Henderson 7 11 0 D Se	ď
4	0-23F	CAMPECHE BAY (12) G Salding 6 11 0 A P	ı
5		FNPERCENT (296) C Barwell 7 11 0	
6		FRED\$ MELCOY (664) F Tucker 10 11 ()	
7		GROUND NUT (14) R Buckler 5 11 0	
8	30533-2	MER PROPORTIES (20) Mass 11 Yought 7 11 0	į
9	214-260	MEMURO (19) D Elsworth 7 11 0	,
10	0P606/P	OLUNER DUCKETT (18) Mrs J Sciebozom 6 11 O.Mr.	J
ü	331/33/	SORBERE (596) N Hendarron 8 11 0M A Fit	1
12	64/08P-6	TAMOO'S DEJIGHT (28) D Elseonth 7 11 DA Pro	ı
13	11220-4	TRYING ABAIN (21) (BF) D Sendollo 7 11 0	ł
_		- 13 declared -	

- به بسیدیت -BETTING: 5-2 Ground Nat, 7-2 Trying Again, 9-2 Nexturo, 8-1 Mr Piciqueck et, Campache Bay, 10-1 Scribtore, 18-1 others 1.45 WESTERN MORNING NEWS SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS G) £2,400

added 2m 3f 110yds 4431PAJ NISS PROPERNEL (6) A Bermin 5 11 7 040320- NIR PLAYFULL (202) R Frost 5 11 4 P14.PFP MMT A MELLUM (5) M Berstein 4 11 3 _____ D Gallegher 4200-50 LINS AKURA (13) W Clay 7 11 2 _____ A P McGoy

some top contenders at Ascot A betting shop punter came his Coral Lucky 31 bet.

> 2.15 EDIMBOURG HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS C) £6,500 added 2m 7f 110yds 1197-40 GMNS A BURK (18) D Basson 12 12 0. P Holley
> 114-3:1 DUHMLOW LODGE (20) C Bened 8 11 5 D Bidgenter
> PP-122 STRUMEN HIVEL (39) (9) C Thorne 1 11 5 M A Plagentel
> PP-430 BISHOPS ISLAND (3) (9) Miss H Ingin 9 11 2 G F Ryan (5)
> 3-22131 ROMANY CREEK (7) G Bating 6 11 0 Hord A P McCoy
> 56/36-46 LITTLE TOM (13) J Ving 10 10 3 A Upton
> - 5 declared -

- 6 declared BETTENC: 2-1 Dukellow Lodge, 5-2 Romany Creek, 3-1 Steunch Rivel, 5-1 Glyse & Buck, 10-1 Steleops Island, 12-1 Little Tom 2.45 HENRIETTA KNIGHT BIRTHDAY NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS F) £3,500 added 2m 2f

00/0-3 LADY BREYFAX (36) Mrs J Stretomon; 5 10 0Mr J Joke - 17 declared -Min weight: 10st. The handbap weights Pratile Grove 9st 20th, Needwood Rathe 9st 9th, Cambai Hid 9st 4th, Alabraina 9st 3th, Lady Breyfar 9st 2th, BETUNE: 5-1 Porthage, 11-2 Boyal Ag Nag, 6-1 Supermick, 13-2 And-Bornnemories, 7-1 Dark Nightingale, 10-1 Prairie Grove, 12-1 officers.

3.15 GEMINI RADIO HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS C) £4,750 added 2m 2f

- 10 declared -BETTREE: 9-4 Runneway Pete, 3-1 Bookcose, 4-1 Tight Flat, 8-1 He's A Ring, Stainjack, 10-1 Cabochon, 12-1 Lucky Man, 14-1 others

RESULTS

FOLKESTONE

22.30:1. DONTORESSPORDANCE (*) Decordor (*) 1: 2. Night in A Million 33-1; 3. Meanus Million 13-8 law. 8 ran. 3, 5, 10. Popham). Totae: F.1.0: £1.70; 5, 14.40; £1.20. Df: £55.10. CSF: £135.56. Indaet £483.45. 1.00: 1. EQUITY PLAYER (*) Weisch 11-4 for, 2. Woodlands 809: 5-1; 3. Pull of Oarls 3-1. 8 ran. 5, 6, 18 Curtus, Ensorth. Total £460: £180; £180; £120. Df: £7.80. CSF: £17.03. Incast: £41.06. Tho: £20.00. NR: Cohumolie. E1703. INCOSE 28:100. HR. 22000. TOCOMORDE. 1.30: 1. HAPPY HOSTAGE (A P McCoy) 13-7: 2. Comate Lady 11-2: 3. Vallant Too-id 6-1. 14 ran. 3-1 fev Texterlys Grit. 1v., 7. 1. White. Wendover. 1 rote: 27.70: f.2.90. 15.60, 12.00. Dr. 122.80. CSF: £41.23. Text

ES.60, £2.00. DF: £22.80. CSF: £41.23. Troc
£56.60.
2.00: 1. NO PARN NO GAIN (P Hatel
£5 for; 2. Lookout Mountain 7-1; 3. The
Goting Curute 25-1. 12 ras. 6. 4. U Giford,
Fridon; Total: £1.80; £1.00, £6.90, £11.60.
DF: £15.60. CSF: £1.00. 85. Tro: £128.10.
2.30: £. PREENNA GERI. (D Broigwater)
10-11 for; 2. Enropaldeadis 9-1; 3. Captain
Coe 50-1. 9 ras. 1%. 5. M Pipe, Wellingmil. Total: £1.70; £1.10, £2.40, £3.00. DF:
£8.40. CSF: £9.72. Trocset: £221.87. Ino:
£1.40. 20. NR: Setter Stephene.
3.00: 1. LE CHAT NORE £6 Fenton 7-4 for;
2. Manesbootsthe-house 9-2; 3. Rather Sharp
7-2. 7 ras. 4, 9. 10 Gresselli. Total: £2.20;
£1.10, £3.80. DF: £9.30. CSF: £9.58.
3.30: 1. CHAPRASS (D Bridgeater) 10-11
for; 2. Chal-Yo 5-2; 3. Sounds Like Pan
8-1. 10 ras. 7, 3+; AP ppe, Wellignoni. Total
£1.40. Tro: £15.60. NR: Multimor.
Place 8: £30.78, Place 5: £16.00.
Quadport £12.00. Placeport £21.90

MAD VEDNA MAPTON

WOLVERHAMPTON

WOLVERHAMPTON

1.15: 1. CONTEC'S LEGEND (Mrs L
Peace 10-1; 2, March 5-1; 3. Alpine Storm
25-1. 12 ran. 11.-4 fat Hill Farm Dancer (4th).
6, 2. U Bottomery, Malron), Tutte: 58.80;
£2.50, £2.50, £5.10. DF: £23.60. CSF:
£52.63. Thessa: £1.093.80. Tro: £90.10.
1.45: 1. LITTLE IBNR (America Sanders).
9-4 fax; 2. Cretpan Gift 7-1; 3. Sing With The
Band 7-2.13 ran. nb. 5, IP D Evans, Webnpool, Totar: £3.90; £1.50, £2.50, £1.50. DF:
£18.10. CSF: £16.98. Tro: £11.10.
2.15: 1. HONESTLY (S Sanders) 12-1;
2. Chilbang Bang 10-1; 3. Mythons Mistake
9-1. 12 ran. 7-2; f-43x Blue Plyer & Itsriftepost. 4. 1y; IB Smert). Totar: £2.100;
£2.60, £2.30, £4.20. DF: £38.60. CSF:
£114.45. Tross: £1.031.79, Tro: £167.40. post. 4. 17: 18 Smart). Total: £21.00.
£2.60, £2.30, £4.20. DF £38.60. CSF: £114.46. Incast: £1.031.79. Inc £167.40.
2.48: 1. LITTLE SCARLET? № Carisle)
14-1: 2. Forzale 8-1: 3. Meater MMRhald
16-1. 12 ran. 7-2 fav Dr Caligan (4th).
8th-16. 6. P Malkin, Ogbourne Massy, Total:
£12.40; £3.90. £2.00, £2.70. DF: £84.40.
CSF: £107.76. Incast: £1.636.21. Tao: £187.50. NF. Dand Ismes' Gri.
3.15: 1. MoNKEY ZANTY 1D Winght)
33-12: 2. Markins Street 7-2 co-fav; 3. Lady
Exist 7-2 co-fav; 13 ran. 7-2 co-fav Loch Syle
(4th). Nr. 174. U | Harris, Melton Monitory).
Total: £2.80; £4.30, £2.70, £2.40. DF: £67.80. CSF: £151.61. Inc £177.90.
3.48: 1. CERTAIN WAY (1 G McLinughim)
12-1: 2. Maple Bay 8-1: 3. Deeply Vale
5-2 fav. £2 ran, nr. 17. (N Littmooth, Woher-hampton). Total: £13.90; £3.20, £3.10.
£1.51: 1. PISTOLS AT DAWN (MSS J AB5019-2: 2. Roussitte 8-1: 3. Meddest Hope
6-1. 11 ran. 11-4 fav Buckley Boys. 20, 5.
18 Meahan, Lamnoumi, Total: £4.70; £1.80, £2.30, £1.80, DF: £14.70, CSF: £38.01, Tin.
22-30; £1.80, DF: £14.70, CSF: £38.01, Tin.
23-51; £1.80, DF: £14.70, CSF: £38.01, Tin.
23-51; £1.80, DF: £14.70, CSF: £38.01, Tin.
23-51; £1.80, DF: £1.70, £2.30, DF: £1.00, AD:
24-51; £1.80, ESF: £1.91, £2.21, Dr.
25-61; £1.92, £2.30, £2.21, Dr.
25-620; £5.80, £2.31, Tin. £22.22, £3.
25-620; £5.80, £2.31, Tin. £22.22, £3.
25-620; £5.80, £5.80, £5.23, £5.221, Inaligot: not won. A pool of £10,455.43 & camed forward to Expect today.

Quadpot: £163.10, Placepot: £672.20,



1

TONY COZIETE

"Jaharak. In "

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European Championship qualifying play-off: The Netherlands v Republic of Ireland, Anfield, 8pm

Orange, green and white night

GUY HODGSON

There are two reactions to the colours of Ireland and the Netherlands. The Irish, and even those using it as a flag of international convenience, see the tricolour and are seemingly imbued with patriotic desire. The Dutch use theirs as a basis for an argument.

No nation in football dissipates its talent with needless rows like the Netherlands. In 1978 they might have won the World Cup if Johan Cruyff had not been sulking elsewhere and in countless international competitions since, the loudest noises coming from their camp has been the sound of broken

crockery.

It is the same tonight. Every sane observer would place the Dutch in the top 16 nations in Europe yet they have to face the Republic of Ireland in a playoff at Antield for next summer's European Championships. This the legacy of another bust-up about style and formation.

Indeed had Guus Hiddink, the Dutch coach, not had his thinking changed by a strike by the Ajax players earlier this year they might have been denied even a chance of making it to England by the back door. Now the Netherlands play it the Ajax way and Hiddink is a

tactical hostage to his players.
"It's difficult," Marc Overmars, the Ajax winger, replied diplomatically, when asked why the Dutch began their qualification period so badly. They needed to win their last three matches just to make it to Anfield. "I have been asked that so many times. The last few games it is Ajax style but before that it was a little different, Maybe."

For maybe read definitely. As a consequence the Dutch team tonight will have eight players from Ajax, something

REP OF IRELAND

CHSCHOOLS MARKETIE

O SPIECE VALVE PER SALVE NETHERLANDS

that has pleased the Irish, notwithstanding the Amsterdam side's status as the European Cup holders and world club champions.

"A lot of countries have tried to base national teams round club sides - England tried it with Liverpool a few years ago - and it's never worked," Jack Charlton, the Irish manager, said. "That's mainly because clubs play othing the best in a country.

The intrigues in the Dutch camp are not mirrored in the Republic's, who are thrilled to have any chance of playing in the finals at all after conceding 10 goals in their last five matches, only one of which was won. Even Chariton, grumpy as an old grizzly before the last qualifying game in Portugal, has a screenity before a match that might see the end of his nineyear term in charge of the Irish.

"I'm not too bad actually," he said. "My mind isn't dwelling on the game as much as it has in the past. Mainly because I know we're playing a good side. They're probably expected to beat us. I'm relaxed because of the expectancy."

History favours the Dutch who put the Irish out of the European Championships in 1988 and expelled them from the World Cup in the United States in Orlando last year. The difference this time, according to Charlton, is that the match is heing played on Ireland's terms. The venue, in the heart of the Irish community in Eng-

land, is an advantage for a start but so is the cold, dank air and the inclusion of a tall target man, round which the Irish attack in swirls. In Orlando neither the debilitating humidity nor the lack of Niall Quinn and Tony Cascarino were in their favour and they lost 2-0.

"We were forced to readjust," Charlton said of that disappointment. "We like to play the ball behind people, we like to condense areas and we



Back to back: The Irish manager Jack Charlton (left) and his captain, Andy Townsend, in training yesterday

Photograph: Bob Colliet/Reuter

like to chase them. We can do that in these temperatures but we couldn't in America. We're back to what we do best."

Cascarino, a revelation for Marseille this season, plays tonight as Quinn is suspended. "He's a big strong lad," Charl-ton added, "who moves about

proved for being in France. We've used him in the past to replace Niall. I see no problem."

One problem Chariton does perceive, however, is the threat of the Dutch wingers, Overmars and Glenn Helder. Estimating that two full-backs might not be enough he has se-lected four - Jeff Kenna and

Terry Phelan to guard the flanks from midfield in addition to Gary Kelly and Denis Irwin. John Aldridge, too, will operate from a withdrawn position.

"We've never played two up front," Charlton said: "We've always had one striker coming back into midfield when we lose possession. You

across midfield is a defensive formation but it doesn't have to be. It depends how many people you throw forward when the ball's there." That last equation will be

solved only if Irish enthusiasm can bridle the Netherlands'

played them 10 times," Danny Blind, captain of Ajax and his country, said, "we would win six or seven times. But quality does not always count." Ireland and Chariton would probably concur with the maths. They will hope their own qualities, those

Cantwell relives the crack and the sadness of Paris

Phil Shaw encounters the Republic's 'towering force' of three

decades ago - Noel Cantwell (pictured left) - whose makeshift

team also travelled to a neutral ground, the Parc de Princes, for a

play-off that meant qualification for a major tournament finals in

England. The prize against Spain was a place in the 1966 World Cup

What Jack Charlton would litical grounds. Then, after they have made of it is anyone's had followed a 1-0 win in Dublin guess. The Sixties are in midswing and the Republic of Ireland team, who face the game of their lives within 24 hours, are out watching the dancing erning body, Fifa. girls of the Folies Bergère. "When Spain came to Da-

Charlton's Ireland have a reputation for post-match partying. Victories were more scarce in the days when Noel Cantwell was the Republic's most-capped player, which may explain why, on that Parisian night, they were getting their celebrations in first.

"We didn't have a drink," twittkle in his eye in the lounge

of Cork will be another mem- he pointed to his head and Cantwell said. There was a ru- Cantwell as a "towering force" you had to be born in the Re- nists took power, and people the most modest expenses, ber of the Green Army roaring Charlton's team on against the Netherlands. In the French capital 30 years ago last month, Cantwell was leading from the Republic's centre-half and captain against Spain.

That match was also a playoff for the last place in a maior tournament in England. Whereas Irish sights are currently set on next summer's European Championship finals, Cantwell's mind raced with thoughts of the 1966 World Cup as he joined the Football Association of Ireland's charter flight to France at

Heathrow.

over the only other team left in the group, Spain, with a 4-1 away defeat, a third match was ordered by the game's world gov-

lymount Park I played up front," Cantwell recalled. "The crowd there got behind you if you were enthusiastic and whacked a few people, so after five minutes I charged into the keeper, who was a huge fella, about 6ft 4in. "He gave me a real mouth-

ful, but soon another cross Cantwell assured me with a came in right under the bar. I ran at him, but didn't touch bar of his pub in Peterborough. him. Instead I shouted at him. genial godfather of the FAI, "But the crack was good, and and he palmed the ball straight then we went back to our hotel." into the net. When he was venue. "We were hoping for Tonight, this 63-year-old son asked later what'd happened, Goodison or Old Trafford,"

Spain, then European champions, staged the return in Seville. "That was an incredibly partisan place, with 30,000 jammed in. If they needed a resuit they took teams there rather than Madrid. No one got out of there winning."

The Republic were no exception, and Joe Wickham, was left to negotiate a neutral

mour that we took a bung to in a gallant rearguard action. go to Paris, which Spain wanted, but I was told it was done on the toss of a coin."

So, via the Folies, to the Parceles Princes, where hish tricolours were swamped by Spanish flags in the 40,000 crowd. Cantwell was back in defence, with his Manchester United colleagues, Shay Brennan and Tony Dunne, while Eamon Dunphy, just out of his teens, made his debut in midfield.

But with 11 minutes left, Lopez Ufarte hit the only goal, and frantic pressure could not force extra time. "They were better than us,

and I remember Luis Suarez was different class," Cantwell admitted, "but it was a sad night because we'd never been so close to the finals." He does not, however, be-

lieve it holds any omens for An-

public. We didn't have enough top-class players, so you'd have someone like Johnny Giles alongside a Fourth Division player or part-timer from the League of Ireland. "Also, most of our games

were friendlies. I never played in Belfast, for example, but I of- at midday after Mass. You ten played in Prague and War- could be playing Italy but saw. They were the only invitations we got. We played at Katowice once with 110,000 there. Very few Westerners had

to Dalymount and got stuck

"Another thing was that we ly challenged. Even the kit never had the hixury of having was archaic. When he was with matches called off the Saturday West Ham, Cantwell took his before an international - and own shorts over. He can still see Giles pulling a pair with a 38our home games were on Sundays. It was nothing for me to inch waist over his head, play somewhere like Inswich, All the same, he was proud change quickly, get a lift or a taxi to the station, and try and to represent his country (for whom he also played at crick-

make the ferry from Holyhead et). Nowadays in a 13-year international career, he might have 100 caps rather than 36. Why so few? "Matt [Busby] "I might have a pint and then I'd get my head down on bunk. Sometimes I got into didn't always approve of us going off to play for Ireland, es-pecially if it was a friendly and Dublin at 7am and we'd assemble at the Gresham hotel United had a midweek match. You might develop a twinge there was no time for tactical you never knew you had." discussion. You just went up The Republic had various

The Irish Times described different times. "For a start, been there since the Commu- The match fee was £50 and in charge at Coventry-yet the

part-time managers - Cantwell did the job briefly when he was squad was chosen by a committee of Irish club officials. "They never came over here to watch people. They went on your record, or by cuttings, and judged whether you were better than some fella at home. We'd probably only have taken a couple of reserves to Paris. There were more FAI

men than players." Chariton, in tandem with Maurice Setters (whom Cantwell partnered at United tively pampered players of the team behind the team, he may ..well be.

The sometimes fatal danger of the sudden-death play-off front, or rather the back, as the Sport. George Orwell once the pretext of protecting its Aviv six months before the eight. Seven years on it was the They were away nine days, become a symbol of post-Malv-

decreed, is an unfailing cause of ill-will, writes Phil Shaw. Play-off football has made an unfortunate habit of bearing him out, never more so than after El Salvador beat Honduras in Mexico City for the right to meet Haiti in yet another play-off for a place in the 1970 World Cup finals.

Their two previous games had provoked rioting in which expatriates from both countries were attacked in the Fate was doing its bit for the. Republic. Syria withdrew from their qualifying section on po-

nationals.

In the ensuing conflict -now known as "the Football War", though the games were an excuse rather than the cause - 3,000 died before the Organisation of American States brokered an uneasy peace. Strife in the Middle East led to Wales becoming embroiled

in a play-off as early as 1958. When Arab nations refused to play Israel, the names of seven European group runners-up

World Cup was due to open in turn of the Republic of Ireland, Sweden.

the pitch and refugees in the dressing-rooms. The British press had to submit copy to the Israeli censor, one reporter eventually filing via an Army field telephone on the touchline. The news was good, Wales's 2-0 victory being their first on foreign soil.

They repeated the margin in Cardiff and went on to beat Hungary in another play-off during the finals to decide who went through to the last

carried off at Leeds 10 days ago.

has a ruptured cruciate ligament,

which requires an operation.
The club's Republic of Ire-

land striker Niall Quinn suffered

a similar injury in November 1993. He missed the World

Cup the following summer, but

after a long lay-off, Quinn has

Ian Feuer is thinking over a £580,000 move to Luton Town

after West Ham decided to let

TODAY'S

NUMBER

The American goalkeeper

fully recovered.

him go.

whose defeat by Spain is re-There were tank tracks on called on this page by Noel Cantwell, but two decades passed before another team from these islands experienced

a one-off decider.

The 1985 tussle between Scotland and Australia was, in fact, a two-off with a place in the World Cup finals the prize. After winning 2-0 in Glasgow, the Scots - under the managership of Alex Ferguson trekked 11,000 miles to Melbourne 10 years ago this

three of which were spent travwaged by the Soccerous' Yu-goslav manager, Frank "Mad The Dutch, incidentall worse than his bite, a 0-0 draw national team having played

gled with Argentina for a place. was manifested after only 90. at USA 94 they were coached by a Scot, Eddie Thomson. The first leg, in Sydney, was goal- Pisa, was sent off by the Italless. For the second, the Ar- ian referee and widely blamed gentinians recalled the man for the Netherlands' second whose "Hand of God" goal had successive failure to qualify.

inas defiance. "The wee No elling, and also had to contend 10", as Thomson called Diego with psychological warfare Maradona, made the differ-The Dutch, incidentally, are Dog" Arok. His bark proved no strangers to play-offs, the

taking the Tartan Army to neighbouring Belgium for a Mexico. By the time Australia tan- bad blood Orwell so disliked seconds of the first leg. Wim Kieft, a striker then playing for

and later bought for Coventry), has changed all that. Far from resenting the Anglo influence. or begridging the comparapast decade, Cantwell wishes he could have been part of the success. Tonight, as one of the

Kendall takes over at Sheffield United after Bassett reign ends

ALAN NIXON

Howard Kendall stepped back into football management yesterday by taking charge of

Since his short spell at Notts County the former Everton and Manchester City manager has lost almost two stone and has not himself fit for action. He has been waiting for a call, which came yesterday from

After Dave Bassett ended his eight-year spell with the Blades, their chairman Mike McDonald wanted a new-look team to lead his side after his protracted take-over. Kendall's immediate task will be to lift United out of the First Division relegation zone and he will be given money to bring in new staff and players.

After steering Sheffield United from the old Third Division to the Premiership, the last two years have not been as successful, with Bassett involved in a constant struggle for funds to bolster his ailing team follow-

The Sheffield United board Posh after joining them from of the season, because of a

paid glowing tribute to him in Grimsby in 1987 before his ca- knee injury. The 21-year-old, a statement yesterday, expressing their gratitude to Bassett "for the outstanding contribu- Liam Daish, has been sustion that he has made over the last eight years." Bassett said he was leaving reluctantly but with his head held high, "knowing that I have done my best with the limited resources made available to me."

Daley Thompson, the gold medal-winning decathlete, could make his League debut at 38 for Third Division Mansfield at home to Cardiff on Saturday. "I don't know whether be is going to make the grade," the Stags' assistant-manager Keith Alexander said, "but he might have enough to see us through a difficult period over Christmas because of injuries."

In another managerial appointment yesterday, Mick Halsall takes over the Second Division club Peterborough where he has been acting as caretaker manager for just over a month following John Still's resignation. Halsall played in more than 300 games for the

reer was ended by injury. Birmingham City's captain, pended for the rest of the Anglo-Italian Cup pending a full inquiry into a brawl following

a match against Ancona last month, the Italian league said on Tuesday. The decision was taken by Italian and English officials at a meeting last night. "Daish has been suspended as a precautionary measure." he said. "He was held responsible for the violent attack on Ancona trainer Massimo Cacciatori at the end of the Ancona-Birmingham City match on 15 November."

Ancona's Edoardo Artistico and Birmingham's Paul Tait were each suspended for one

Cacciatori, who said he was set upon in dressing-room cor-ridors, had surgery for a broken jaw and also suffered severe bruising and cuts to his left eye. He has said he will consider taking legal action. The Manchester City defender Richard Edghill is like-

ly to be out of action for the rest

The number of ice-hockey players in America's National Hockey League who are paid salaries of more than \$1m (£670,000) a season.

year ago there were 106

in the millionaires' club and

just six in 1990-91.

Clubs in Japan and Greece vie for Maradona

Diego Maradona is considering offers to play for Japanese and Greek clubs in 1996. The 35year-old midfielder who captained Argentina to victory in the 1986 World Cup, has recently returned from a second drugs ban and is contracted to play for the Argentinian club Boca Juniors until December 1997.

However, his agent, Guiller-mo Coppola, said: "There is a concrete and very good offer for Diego to go and play in Japan next year and also another from a club in Greece. Maradona, who is sidelined

with a stomach trouble, helped Boca to a seemingly unbeatable six-point lead in the Argentinian league by mid-November, but Boca have since crashed to consecutive defeats and lost any chance of winning the championship.

Playing Standay: Liverpool v Man Utd.
*Playing Monday: Pools Panel will adjudicate. Endsleigh Insurance League First Division

Also playing — sot on conponer: Oldram v Birmingham; Stoke v Crystell Paleon; Woken-hempton v Port Vale. Sunday: Lelcester v Nor-wich. Second Division

Football

George Best, Eusebio and Geoff Hurst have had their famous feet immortalised in cement casts for display in the Football Football restaurant. which will open in London next year. They also presented some of their own treasures when they appeared at the restaurant's Haymarket site. Best handed over his 1967 European Footballer of the Year award.

FA Carting Premiership 4 Man City v Notlingham Forest _____ 5 Newcastle v Evenon _____ 6 QPR v Bolton _____ 7 Shelf Wed v Leeds _____

LO Barnsley v Charito L1 Grinneby v Southe L2 Hudderafield v We

1.8 Blackpool v Bradford 19 Bournemouth v Stockport 20 Bristof Rovers v Oxford Litel 21 Caritale v Walsali

7.30 unless states ELROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFYING PLAY-OFF Notherlands v Rep of Ireland (8.0) ANGLO-ITALIAN CUP INTERNATIONAL STAGE GROUP A Bizningham v Cecona ... Genca v Cidham

Perusia y Port Vale GROUP B Brescia v West Brotoni Ipswich v Salernitana . Regulard v Stolet Southend y Foggle ______ BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE Premier Division

WEEKEND FIXTURES AND POOLS GUIDE 22 Chesterfield v Brentford.
23 Notes County v Crewe
24 Peterborough v Rotherfist
25 Strewboury v Brignon...
26 Swensee v Burnley
27 Sylvendon v Westham
28 Wycombe v Brisco City
29 York v Hull First Division 50 Dundee v St. Johnstone 51 Dunfermilne v Airdine 52 Greenock Mordon v Dundee Urd 53 Hernflorn v Dunderton 54 St. Nikren v Ctydebenk Third Division 30 Buy v Gilinghem
31 Chester v Preston
32 Colchester v Scunthorpe
33 Derington v Barnet
34 Dencaster v Leyton Orient .

> 38 Lincoln v Plymouth 39 Mensield v Cardiff 40 Torquay v Scarborough 41 Wigan v Hareford Smirsoff Irish League Premier Division

42 Artis v Glentoran...... 43 Crusaders v Bangor 44 Glenavon v Cliftorvill 45 Linfield v Portadown Beil's Scottish League Premier Division
46 Aberdeen v Hearts
47 Cettic v Fettirk

ICIS LEAGUE Premier Division: Harrow Borough v Purificet (7.45).

UNIBOND LEAGUE Premier Division: Ac-

Second Division Also playing — not on coupo raer, Stanhousemul, v Ayr. Third Division

FIVE AWAYS: Tottenhern; Sunderland; Burn-ley, Plymouth; Dumbarton,

TEN HOMES: Queen's Park Rangers; Ports-mouth; Swindon; Shrewsbury; Darlington; Doncestar; Celtic; Dundee; Dunfermine: Servect. TODAY'S FIXTURES Helens v Okthan; Wigen v Helifax, First Di-vision; Batley v Widnes; Rocindale v Wate-feld. Second - Division; Barrow v Hunslet; Chorley v Swarton; Hagfrield v Hull KR; Leigh v Donoaster; Yark v Bramley.

Clugan Stanley v Berraix. BEAZER HONGES LEAGUE Premier Divisions. Newport AFC v Atherstone (7.45).

Ringby Union
HENEIGN CUP Pool B: Uster v Bedos (7.0). CIS INSURANCE UNDER-21 COUNTY CHAM-PIONISHIP Michands Final: East Michands v North Michands (at Northampton). REPRESENTATIVE MATCH: Atmy v N Zeoland Army (7.0) (at Aldershot). AMY (7.0) (8. Aldershot).

SINU UNDER-ZL: BYTER-DISTRICT CHAMPI-ONSHIP: Glasgow District v Scotlish Eules; South of Septiand v North & Mid Scotland (6.0).

Newport AFC v Atherstone (7.45).

LEAGUE OF WALLES: Bitton Ferry v Atm. Lido.

PONTINS LEAGUES: First Division: Botton v
Notes County (7.0); Leads v Liverpool (7.0);
Notem Forest v Transmer (7.0). Second Division: Hull v Burnley (7.0); Middleshrough
v Grimsby (7.0); at Hartlegoodh Sunderland
v Huddersfield (7.0); York v Barnsley (7.0).
Third Division: Sestionough v Bury (7.00);
Scustnospe v Lincoln (7.0); Stockport v Derflagen (6.45); Water V Chester (7.0); Witterham v Shrewsbury (7.0).

POWISION INSURANCE COMBENATION First
Division: Wimbledon v Southampton (2.0). Other sports ICE HOCKEY: Olympic qualifier: Great Britain v Denmark (Metion Keynes).

Pooley c **England**

Addition

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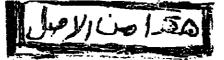
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'Cricket is ruining my life' - Lara

TONY COZIER reports from Bridgetown,

A picture of Brian Lara as a player ill at ease with his captain, manager, some of his team-mates and even the game itself emerged yesterday from leaked excerpts of official reports on last summer's West Indies tour of England.

"He is always saying that 'cricket is ruining my life'," the team manager, Wes Hall, noted in his report carried in the Trinidad Guardian,

"I think, however, that cricket will save it. The commercial demand on his time is like an albatross around his neck. I believe Lara has a great role to play in West Indies cricket. It is imperative that we be aware of

Calves ruling

the pressure he undergoes."
Hall revealed that Lara stormed out of a heated team meeting following the Manchester Test after a verbal confrontation with captain Richie Richardson and announced, "I retire". Hall said he was "staggered" when Lara told him he was willing to forgo a recent offer of £3m from a bat manufacturer by his decision.

After an absence of three days, the brilliant left-hander ing was persuaded to rejoin the team by West Indies board president, Peter Short, but was subsequently fined 10 per cent of his tour fee for his action. Piqued at the discipline, only banded down late last month, Lara withdrew from the team currently struggling without him on tour in Australia.

Richardson gives his side of the story in his report. He said Lara blamed him for the indiscipline in the team and claimed that he knew other players who felt the same way. I responded by saying that if the players felt that way and were not happy with my captaincy I would resign, but I would not be pushed by anyone who has got ambi-tious agendas." Richardson man I can't recall se wrote. He has been retained as worse than that."

captain for the Australian tour and for the World Cup in February and March.

Relating another incident, when Lara was given permission early in the tour to return to Trinidad on urgent business. Richardson described his "behaviour and conduct" to Hall as "abominable".

Wes Hall is one of the most respected Caribbean personalities and the way Brian spoke to him, in view of the fact that he

was manager of the team, left me in shock." Richardson added. The latest revelations - that include criticism by Ian Bishop of the attitude of fellow fast bowlers Curtly Ambrose and Kenny Benjamin - have intensified the drama that has both fascinated and dismayed the West Indies cricket public.

Obsessed with the one sport that has united the diverse former British colonies in the Caribbean for almost 100 years, they had been taken aback by the recent upheavals. The possibility that Lara, the latest in their long line of great batsmen, may be lost to Test cricket has pressed them.

The West Indies Board has summoned a special meeting in Barbados on Friday to see how it can bring the impasse to what Short calls "a happy end-

The way out is not easy. It is clear that Lara is unlikely to return under Richardson and into a team in which he cannot feel comfortable. The West Indies rely so heavily on his batting that there is a groundswell of opinion that everything should be done, again in Short's phrase, "to rehabilitate" him. But not all members of the

Board are inclined to bend over backwards quite as far as Lara seems to be demanding. The West Indies batting, meanwhile, continues to falter in Australia, falling to 92 all out to the Under-21s of the Academy

yesterday. Their eight-wicket-defeat prompted Richardson to say of his side's batting: "Pathetic,

UNIVERSITY MATCH: Cambridge find inspiration in late drama to overcome spirited Oxford



Lock-out: Cambridge's Charles Simpson keeps his head down as he takes on Oxford at Twickenham yesterday

Enterprising Evans adds final twist

the unfamiliar territory of the

Cambridge half and when

Humphreys hit the post with a

drop-shot he was given, and

took, a penalty which might just

have been Spreadbury's way of

making up for the penalty try. The game was then 50 seconds

into stoppage time when Cambridge made their last assault.

Evans may be a hooker but he

not only insinuated himself into

midfield but in making the Ox-

ford line had the beating of Mer-

STEVE BALE

reports from Twickenham Oxford University Cambridge University

A thundering climax in which the fate of the 114th University match lurched from one side to the other left Oxford with the darkest of dark blues last night after losing one lead through a contentious penalty try and then another to the ultimate matchwinner by Jonathan Evans.

All this took place during five alternately agonising and ecstatic final minutes. Oxford were clinging on as if their lives depended on it - which is roughy how the participants view this occasion - to the 16-9 lead given them by the superlative Irish out-half David Humphreys.

In the most desperate defence Tyrone Howe inserted himself into yet another Cambridge attack, prompting Tony Spreadbury to award the penalty try for

deliberate offside as the ball fell to ground. Spreadbury said he had warned the Dark Blues and Howe in particular that his patience was wearing thin.

You would not expect Howe, a dignified as well as defeated captain, to accept the referee had been right - and he and his coach, Lynn Evans, said so afterwards as politely as they could. But the try, followed by Rob Ashforth's equalising conversion, was but the beginning of the drama.

Oxford made their way into magen, Rush and De Bruyn.

Considering the sniffy attitude of some soulless folk towards a try when Humphreys danced past Nick Holgate. When he conthis fixture - though not, one supposes, the 70,000 who turned up yesterday - it is astounding how it contrives to throw up such vivid incident. Last year's, also won by Cambridge, was an epic of fluctuating fortunes and if this had less to commend it overall,

it was a no less thrilling exam-

ple of the underdog biting back. No wonder Oxbridge captains and coaches talk down their chances year by year. In 1994 Cambridge were the rank outsiders; this time Oxford were supposedly even less favoured, yet they established a lead which they held for 59 minutes and during the fairly brief period when they were winning a share of the ball they played a fluid,

pleasant type of rugby not always in keeping with the occasion. Ashforth's early penalty, the first of three, was cancelled by Humphreys' only success from verted he equalled Gareth Rees's Oxford record of 16 points set last year: with his final penalty he equalled Alastair Hignell's University match record of 19, for Cambridge in 1975.

It was cold comfort. The Dark Blues had pushed themselves to the limit in building a surprising lead and their only realistic objective after Humphreys's try was to defend their lines.

That they did so as well, and for as long, as they did was its own testimony. "Rarely have I played a side that has been written off as much, and rarely have I played in a side that has played with as much courage as that side," Howe said - an intriguing view given that it has been Oxford themselves who have been most prominent in downplaying their prospects. In the end you could say they had been right.

lowed by two penalties and then Penalties Humphreys. Conversion Humphreys.

Penalties Humphreys 3: Drop goal Humphreys.

Oxford pay the penalty

sport

TIM GLOVER

If Lady Luck was an under-graduate she must have gone to Cambridge. Oxford, the darkest of dark horses, paid the harshest of penalties for defending their line and then suffered the cruellest of defeats.

In a matter of minutes, joy for the Dark Blues turned to despair, to elation and finally to the worst moment of all in a Varsity match, shattering defeat.

The unfortunate consequence of an extraordinary climax is that the 114th game in the series will be remembered not so much for Jonathan Evans' winning try in injurytime, not so much for a recordbreaking contribution of 19 points from the Oxford standoff, David Humphreys, but for the most bemusing and controversial decision by the referee. Tony Spreadbury awarded Cambridge a penalty try when they were trailing 16-9 with five minutes to go.

The Light Blues had been pressing for most of the second half when Tyrone Howe tackled his opposite number and, when the ball fell loose, Cambridge knocked on with the line at their mercy. Spreadbury signalled a penalty try, the first in the history of the Varsity match. Howe, the Oxford captain, asked Spreadbury one question: why? The referee replied: "Oxford were offside three times in a row."

Later Spreadbury claborated. There was a try-scoring opportunity," he said. "And Oxford were deliberately offside. I'd mentioned to them that we couldn't keep going down the line of awarding penalty after penalty." Lynn Evans, the Oxford

coach, also questioned the decision. "To award a penalty try." Evans said, "there has got to be the probability of scoring. There wasn't and the ball was dropped. anyway. It was not the best decision he made in the game."

It was certainly the most contentious. Evans pointed out that when Ashforth kicked the conversion to level the scores. there was silence from the crowd, not out of respect but bewilderment. In the final minute Humphreys, who had given Oxford a 16-6 lead at half-time, kicked a penalty after a drop goal attempt hit an upright and score the winning try.

Pooley coolly hauls England A to safety

England A 199 and 191-8 Pakistan A:300 (Match drawn)

A determined unbroken ninthwicket stand between Jason Pooley and Dean Headley, who put on 49 in 52 minutes, salvaged a draw in the third "Test" and confirmed England A's

1-0 series victory. But there was a distinct air of embarrassment in the English camp after a nervy afternoon collapse from 80 for 2 to 142 for 8, which had left them staring at defeat.

At tea England A were just 48 runs in front, but the Middiesex left-hander Pooley took charge of the situation. Never afraid to play his shots, he made sure the field did not creep in too closely around the bat and: his controlled aggression made sure the runs against time equation began to go England's way. It was fitting that Headley

should play a key role at the end, albeit with the bat. The Kent fast bowler's 17 wickets in the three "Tests" have made him the major discovery of a trip designed to be the breeding ground of future Test cricketers. John Emburey, the manager,

nation we created for ourselves."

7-125, 8-142.
Bill set list E S H Glodins.
Bill set list E S H Glodins.
Beeling: Arrive Lale 18-4-47-1; Strahld Nazer
22-6-65-2; Stadid Anwer 2-1-4-0; Alvam Raze
15-1-1-33-1; Satmen Fazza 18-8-20-3; Astif
Mugaba 1-0-4-0; Baber Zaman 2-0-6-0;
Shabid Jawed 1-0-1-0.

Pavin prepares for a pay day Mathis no threat to Bruno-Tyson

Nick Faldo, Colin Montgomerie and Sam Torrance are among the 20 players competing for a first prize of nearly £350,000 in the Johnnie Walker World said: "Everything we set out to Championship starting tomorachieve could have been lost torow at Tryall, Jamaica. Their day, and almost was. It was a sithopes of winning the pre-Christmas jackpot are enhanced by the fact that seven of the world's top

Dation we created for ourselves."

(Final day of the Peldstan A won toss)

BEELAND A First Insigns—199 (D P Oster 68, N Y Knight 55; Shahaf Nazir 6-84)

PARSTAIN A First Insigns 300 (Asti Mujtaba 147no; D.W Headley 5-109).

DIELLAND A — Second Insigns—100 (Deemgh; 62 for 2)

JER Gallian by b Salman Fizzal — 58

S D Udai o Javest Sant b Shahaf Nazir — 29

M Hussain run out — 29

M Hussain run out — 51

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I C Pooley rot out — 51

KJ Pper c Wasarn Yousui b Salman Fizzal — 38

KJ Pper c Wasarn Yousui b Salman Fizzal — 38

Rutas (69, 1012) — 21 Tetal flor 8, 75.1 evers) ______191 Fall: 1-56, 2-61, 3-80, 4-97, 5-109, 6-126,

handed cheques for £1m in South Africa, £225,000 in Hawaii and £240,000 in California. Pavin did not even win two of those events, Ben Crenshaw taking home £400,000 from the two-day Grand Slam of Golf and Fred Couples £270,000 from the one-day

Skins game. Barry Lane, David Frost, Mark McCumber and Masahiro Kuramoto will care little 12 players are not taking part. Anybody unaware of the that they are not in the Jamaica line-up either. At the end of this riches on offer in golf would find month they will be in Arizona competing for another millionit hard to believe that a player dollar first prize. could turn down the chance of

The Johnnie Walker event a week of Caribbean sunshine when even last place carries a £35,000 prize. However, that there are now so many end-ofseason pay days that another one, it seems, does not have sufficient allure. Corey Pavin, for instance, has, sentees, and of the four 1995 in the two months since the American tour ended, been

aims to bring together all the world's best golfers for an end-of-season showdown. The cast this time barely approaches that billing: Greg Norman and Nick Price, the world No 1 and No 2, are also among the ab-

only the Open champion, John Daly, is present. The American hardly distin-

guished himself the last time he played at Tryall. That was in 1991, the year he won the US PGA, and he was disqualified for sign-ing for a wrong score. He still left the Caribbean \$50,000 richer. The event's sponsors. Johnnie

Walker, are pulling out after this year, believing that five years is enough support for a championship which draws players from all over the globe, but not always the ones they wanted. Faldo, winner in 1992 and

joint runner-up behind Ernie Els last December, will be the focus of media attention following the break-up of his second marriage. Montgomerie, meanwhile 11th out of 12 in the Million Dollar Challenge a fortnight ago, will be trying to find a higher note on which to end a season in which he became Europe's major championship winners No 1 for the third year running.

It would not have worried the

Boxing

Buster Mathis Jnr does not stand out in a crowd. He is no heavyweight giant, no man mountain and seemingly will pose no danger to Frank Bruno's date with Mike Tyson in Las Vegas on 16 March.

Because Mathis measures up to everything Tyson needs in his second comeback at the Philadelphia Spectrum on Saturday, an engagement given the thumbs down in November and knocked out of New Jersey because of Don King's promotional block in Atlantic City now finds a home in the City of Brotherly Love.

The last thing Tyson needs at this delicate stage of his new ring career is to run straight into one of the big breed of heavyweights such as Lennox Lewis or Riddick Bowe - or Bruno - without proving something to himself.

old Tyson. But the new Tyson needs to get back into the ring once more to feel the right fighting vibes before facing Bruno despite the memory of their previous meeting in February, 1989 when Iron Mike was world champion, Big Frank was not and it was over in five rounds.

And while Mathis has fast hands, he does not hurt at this level - as a record of just six stoppages in 20 fights illustrates ~ so Tyson can take comfort in the fact that his chin will come under no serious siege, or have to prove his spell in jail has not diluted his punch resistance.

He realises, too, that the 89second farce against Peter Mc-Neeley in August, after four years out of the ring, is no preparation on which to mount his bid to sweep up all the world titles for the second time in his life, hence the urgency to for ge head with the Mathis fight.

Lewis says: "I get the impression that Tyson is very uncertain. He can now see a new generation of really big heavyweights. like Bowe and myself, since he went inside. I think he's got a problem with his confidence he knows there are big punchers around these days.

Tyson is likely to find Bruno a different proposition than when they first fought - a fighter buoyed by his possession of the long-awaited World Boxing Council title, a stone and half heavier, six years wiser and a league higher in confidence.

I wasn't mentally right the first time," said Bruno, who will be at ringside on Saturday to begin the promotional sell for his March defence. "Now I'm confident I can knock Tyson out."

Tyson, meanwhile, is talking a good fight on behalf of his opponent from Grand Rapids, Michigan, saying Mathis is "pretty elusive".

American football Dan Marino broke another NFL pass-Joan Marino broke another NFL passing record, but Miami Dolphins had their defence to thank as they stayed in the play-off chase with a 13-6 win over Karsas City Chiefs. Marino there 156 yerds and a four-yead reachdown pass to OJ McDuffie in the second quarter. In the fourth quarter he passed Fran Tarkenton as the NFL's all-time passing attempts leader with 6-4658 words. nd attempts leader with 6:468 vards ino has broken the marks held by enton for completions, buchdowns yardage this saason.

NFL: Mami 13 Kansas City 6.

6 0 297 282 6 0 337 287 g 10 260 326 11 0 227 349 WESTERN DIVISION 312 221 6 0 310 257 7 0 340 297

Athletics

Beifast has been confirmed as host city for the 1999 World Cross-Country Championships A spokesman for the International Amateur Athletic Federa-tion Council, meeting in Monte Carlo, said: "The council wants to support the peace process and to go back to a country where cross-country has a deep

At the same meeting, the NAAF coun-cil awarded the 1997 grand Prix final to Fukunka, Japan, the 1997 world halfmaration championships to Kosce, Sto-vakia, the 1997 world race walk cup to Podhorany, Casch Republic, and the 1998 world junior championships to An-

Atlanta Braves, the World Series cham-pions, collected more than \$200,000 pions, conected more than \$200,000 (£135,000) a man as their share of the players pool of money drawn from post-season gate receipts, Major League Basebatt armounced yesterday. MRA: Coner 104 Philadelphia 91; Urah 110 Charlotte 100.

David Boon and Brendon Josan have been dropped from the Australian team for the first block of matches in the World for the first block of matches in the World Seens limited overs tournament against Sri Lanke and the West Indies. Share Lee, who has been in outstanding form for New South Wales, was called up to make his international debut and Muchael. Beven, was received. Steve Waugh and Paul Reffiel were not considered because of injuries. India's women are poised to win the third and finel fest against England — and square the series — in Hydrabad today, England, who drew the first Test and won the second by two runs; go into the last day requiring a further 264 runs for an improbable victory with nine

runs for an improbable victory with nine second innings wickets standing. After Karen Smithies' side had slumped to 98 all out on a disastrous second day. India decia» d their second innings on ing with 57. England's victory target was 302, but Helen Plimmer was then out for a duck before Jan Brittin (27 not out) and Barbara Daniels (10 not out) guided the tourists to 38 for 1 by the

TOUR MATCH (Mollongong, Aue): West In-dies 92 (R Richardson 30; Hernty 3-23); Aus-tralian Cricies Academy 96-2 (Richards 25). ACC win by eight wickets.

Drugs in sport The International Amateur Athletic Fed-

Russian hurdler Lyudmile Narozhilenko and German distance runner Irls Biba. The IAAF reinstated the two athletes under their exceptional circumstances rule. Both athletes were banned for four years after testing positive for steroids.

Football

Birmingham's Welsh International mid-fielder, Jason Bowen, will be out of ac-tion for three months after having surgery to remove a cyst from behind a knee. to remove a cyst from behind a knee. "SUSPENSIONS in the FA Carling Premier-ship and Embeleigh Insurance League First Obvietous Sendings-off: L Bowyer (Chartron) 1 match from 19 Dec; J Hughes (Tranmera) 4 matches from 19 Dec; J Hughes (Tranmera) 4 matches from 17 Dec; 21, perestly points: M Ford (Leads United) 2 matches from 16 Dec; C Hughes (Luten Town) 2 matches from 16 Dec; S Grayaon (Leices-ter City) 2 matches from 19 Dec.

ice hockey NML: Florida 2 New Jersey 1; NY Rangers 3 Dellas 2; Colorado 5 Toronto 1; Tempa Bay 6 Buffalo 1; Calgary 6 Los Angeles 2. EASTERN CONFERENCE NORTHEAST DIVISION

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Pittsburgh19	5 3	138	82	41				
Montreal13	12 2	84	87	28				
Buffalo11	14 3	83	90	25				
Boston10	13 4	92	102	24				
Hartford10	15 2	66	87	22				
Ottawa	19 1	70	106	15				
ATLANTIC DIVISION								
Florida21	7 2	103	70	44				
NY Rangers19	8 5	114	89	43				
Philadelphia18	8 -4	109	73	40				
New Jersey13	14 3	77	74	29				
Tampa Bay12	12 5	85	94	29				
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WESTERN CONFERENCE								
CENTRAL DIVISION								

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...14 10.5 92 85 33 ...12 10 7 99 91 31

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PACIFIC DIVISION Colorado18 8 4 134 90 40 Los Angeles12 12 6 96 97 30 Amahelm11 17 3 92 98 25 nton _____10 15 5 81 113 25 nover ___ 9 12 7 102 110 25 ny ____ 6 17 6 74 101 18

Motor racing Only three drivers took part in the open-ing day of Formula One testing at Es-toril on Monday, Michael Schumacher, the reigning F1 champion, was fastest with a lap of 1min 22.14sec, his Fer-rari team-mate, Eddie Irvine, clocked 1:23.00 despite a transmission prob-cers Cederal Remer, who has swirthed tem. Gerhard Berger, who has switched to Benetton from Ferrari, managed a best lap of 1:23.89.

Rugby Union Richard Goodey, the Newport captain, will be out of action until the new year after picking up a back injury in his side's

Wordester have been given a £1.2m Na-tional Lottery grant – believed to be the biggest given to a rugby club – to fund a major ground development at their Six

Skiing

The international federation, the FIS, has ched two women's World Cup races tains to Switzerland and Slovenia. The Swiss resort of Veysonnez will host a slalom on 22 December in addition to a super-G and glant statom atready scheduled there on 20-21 December, while Maribor, in Slovenia, will be giv en a glant statom on 5 January. Man-bor is due to host a glant slatom and

MANINORA CHALLENGE (Bombay) Paret P Nicol (Sco) In C Walter (Eng. 15-8 15-11 15-10.

SPORTING DIGEST paid to poor **New Zealand**

Cricket Pakistan 208 and 434 New Zealand 286 and 195 (Pakistan win by 161 runs)

Mushtaq Ahmed finished with career-best figures of 7 for 56 yes-terday and Waqar Younis became, at 24, the youngest bowler to take 200 Test wickets as Pakistan wrapped up victory over New Zealand in the one-off Test at Christchurch.

Roger Twose, the former War-

wickshire batsman, top-scored for New Zealand with 51 not out. (Fourth day, New Zealand won inss)
PANISTAN - First lenings 208 (Arms So-hall 88, Ramic Raje 54; C Ceims 4-51).
MEW ZEALAND - First lenings 298 (C Carrs 76, R Twose 59; Wasen Alvam 5-53).
PANISTAN - Second Insign 434 first Ahmed 103, Inzamam-ul-Heg 82)

NEW ZEALAND - Second Inning 3 Young c Latif b Mushtaq Spearmen c Sohail b Mushtag... Parore lbw b Mushtag

Mushtaq puts | Fighting clause thrown out | reached 260. Bob Murray.

Toronto Maple Leafs forward Ken Baumgartner that would have rewarded him for fighting has been scrapped. The National Hockey League arbitrator, George Nicolau, made the ruling after hearing arguments from the NHL and the NHL Players' Association. Toronto had agreed to pay

A clause in the contract of the

Baumgariner a \$10,000 (£6,000) bonus if he reached 170 minutes in penalties this season and as much as \$55,000 (£36,000) if he British passport last week.

gotiations as a means of enhancing the deal, said Bill Watters, Toronto's assistant general manager. The prolific Steve Moria is set

Baumgartner's agent, suggest-

ed the clause during contract ne-

to make his debut as Great Britain continue their campaign to qualify for the 1998 Winter Olympics against Denmark at Milton Keynes tonight. The Canadian-born forward is ready to help his adopted country's cause after only being granted his

Henley remains in the black

Henley Royal Regatta proved its enduring profitability again in 1995 with a £180,000 surplus, writes Hugh Matheson. The Henley Stewards have

approved a comprehensive overhaul of the qualification rules for the five different events they offer for eights. This has been spurred by a rising level of complaint from the clubs and universities that have in the past felt themselves in the wrong event, and the uneven spread of entries in pursuit of each cup. The nub of the problem is the

Ladies' Plate, the second ranked event, after the Grand which is for world class crews. Many clubs and colleges prefer the third event, the Thames Cup. The Stewards have found it increasingly difficult to distinguish between the ordinary chubs whose natural home is the Thames Cup and the Super Clubs which they would prefer

to find in the Ladies Plate. The new rule bars any crew with more than two ex-internationals and any group whose main purpose is to produce international calibre crews, from entering the Thames Cup.

Nicol walks all over Walker

Peter Nicol demolished Chris Walker in straight games in the Mahindra Challenge final in Bombay yesterday. The 22-yearold south seed took only 40 minutes to scoop the £9,700 first prize by recording a 15-8, 15-11, 15-10 win over the fifth seed.

Both men beat higher seeded players to reach the final. The Scottish champion defeated the No 2 seed, Brett Martin, in the semi-finals, while England's Walker beat the defending champion and top seed. Rodney Eyles. Walker said: "I just could not get going. I think Nicol was too good for me today."

Indeed Walker was at his best only in the second game where he led 5-1. However, Nicol pulled back to 7-7 and then won the next five points.

RESULTS

Football AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION First Division: Arsenal 4 Oxford Utd 1; Wattord 0 Crystal Palace 1 Second Division: Pymouth 0 Cardiff 0.

Rugby Union UNIVERSITY MATCH: Oxford 19 Combridge UNIVERSITY MATCH: 21 (at Twickenham). UNDER-21 INTERNATIONAL: England 21

UNDER-21 UNIVERSITY MATCH: Oriord 13 Cambridge 3 (at The Stoop).

England meet Italy on the road to France

Football

England were given one of the toughest of tasks when the draw for the qualifying com-peition for the 1998 World Cup drawn in a group with Italy.

Poland, Georgia and Moldova. Both Italy, beaten finalists in the 1994 World Cup, and Poland have qualified at England's expense in recent times. In 1973 Poland put out Sir Alf Ramsey's men while four years later Italy deprived Ron Greenwood's side of a place in the finals in Argentina.

Venables' side also face the prospect of difficult journeys to two countries who have emerged from the former Soviet Union. Moldova and Georgia. Both handed out hu-

> **GROUP ONE** Denmark

Greece

Croatia

Slovenia

GROUP TWO

ENGLÁND

Poland

GROUP THREE

Norway

Switzerland 1 4 1

Finland

Hungary

Azerbaijan

GROUP FOUR

Sweden

SCOTLAND

Austria

Latvia

Belarus

KUUP ti

Russia

Bulgaria

Israel

Cyprus

Luxembourg

miliating beatings to Wales in and Armenia. the qualifying campaign for For the R

Scotland face Sweden, who they lost to in a friendly earli-er this season, as well as Aus-tria, and another three of the was made in Paris yesterday. former Soviet Union sides, Terry Venables' team were Belarus and the Baltic states of former Soviet Union sides, Estonia and Latvia in a six-

team group. Wales will take on Belgium, who they beat in the qualify-ing competition for the 1994 World Cup, as well as the Netherlands. Turkey, Euro '96 finalists in England next sum-mer, are also in the same group, which is made up by San

Northern Ireland received perhaps the toughest draw of all. They are up against Ger-many and Portugal, with whom they drew 0-0 in Oporto in September, plus Albania, Ukraine

GROUP SIX

Czech Republic

Slovakia

Yugoslavia

GROUP SEVEN

Netherlands

Belgium:

WALES

San Marino

GROUP EIGHT

Romania

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

Lithuania

iceland

Macedonia

Liechtenstein.

GROUP NINE

Germany

Portuga

NORTHERN IRELAND

Ukraine

Albania

Malta: Faroe Islands

World Cup 1998

European Qualifying Section

For the Republic of Ireland, drawn in the six-strong group eight, there is a chance to make up for the embar-rassment of being held to a goalless draw by Liechtenstein last summer and the opportunity to recall the famous penalty shoot-out win over Romania in Italy in 1990. The group is made up by the former Yugoslav republic of Macedo-

The Republic of Ireland manager, Jack Charlton, said: "Romania are the only team there that you would say had excellent quality. Even so I be-lieve that many of their top players are coming towards the end of their careers.

nia. Lithuania and Iceland.

We remember them of course from the penalty shoot-out in the World Cup finals in

"And they also did well in America, of course. To me, it looks like them or us to win the group because there are no other teams we know we can't

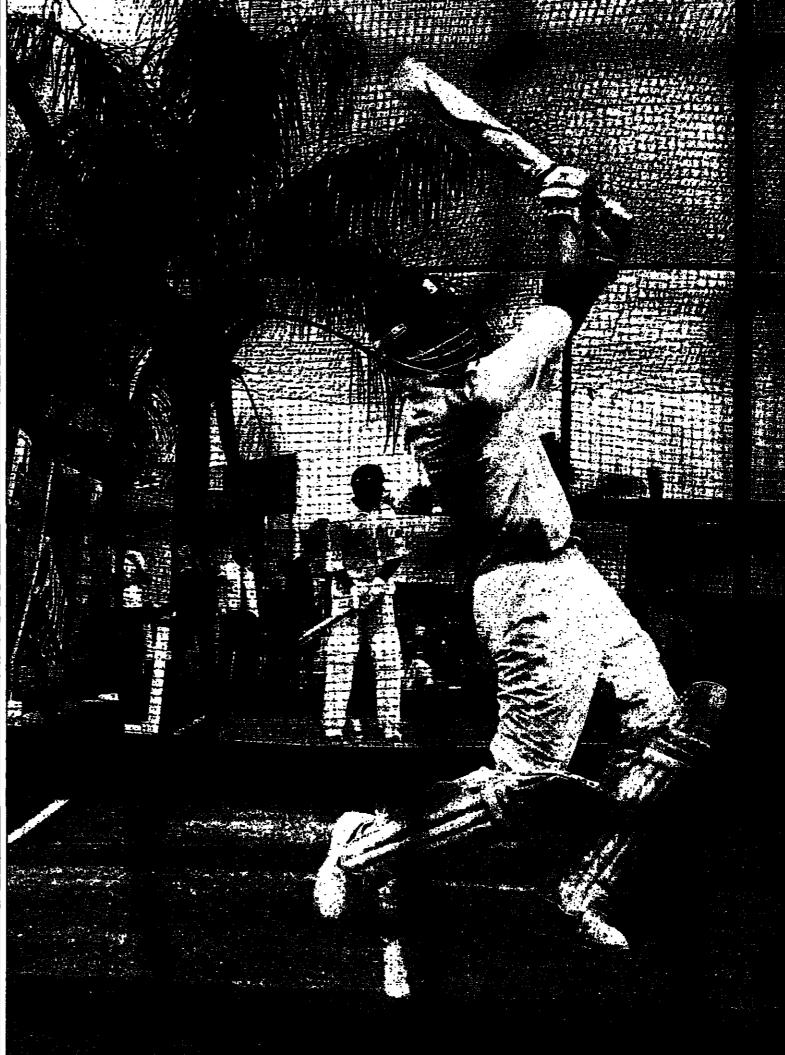
After the disappointments of the rocky road to the 1994 World Cup, in which the Re-public of Ireland alone reached the finals (the first time in 40 years that none of the four home nations had managed to qualifiy) expectations will be high that a huge force of Channel-hoppers will descend on France in twoand-a-half years' time.

The passports to the outer reaches of the continent were handed out at the end of the 90-minute gala draw by Milan's Liberian striker, George Weah, and France's Just Fontaine, who scored a record 13 goals in the 1958 finals in

But that was only after an increasingly anxious wait as the ceremony roamed across the globe, with draws for Asia, Africa, Oceania and North and Central America. Eventually, the 49 Euro-

ean teams ready to join battle for the 14 places available alongside the hosts began to know their fate, with Wales, in the fourth batch of seeds, the first of the home countries to be pulled, in group seven.

Next came Bryan Hamil-The rine group winners and the best runner-up qualify for the finals, in France. The other eight numers-up will be drawn into paire for play-off winners qualifying for the finals in France. third group of seeds, and immediately facing three trips to the eastern edge of the continent. And then England, Scotland and finally the Republic. The race was on.



John Crawley (foreground) and Graeme Hick prepare in the nets for the third Test with South Africa in Durban yesterday

IN BRIEF

Major's EU warran हर

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Road to ruin

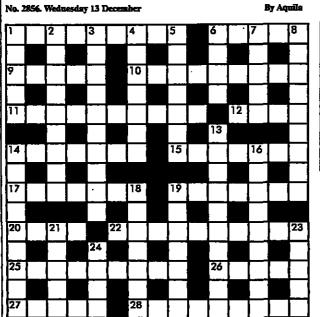
Inc most Superior

and the Alice

Chinese dissident pairs!

will in the face

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD



ACROSS 20 Chap on foot, Bill, upset 22 when confined by shackle (9) Way a politician makes his 25 mark? (5) Some Africans forbid famil- 26

iar mode of address in France 27 Ring fitted to wild game 28 should make one sound loud-

11 Dog takes a test around ring, in care of keeper (10) Busy creature at opening of tulip is a sugar-producer (4) 2 Higher course for those qual-ified marines, perhaps? (7)

Pledge is put back into ware- 3 End of first editions? These 4 papers may be thrown away

Something to defend people 6 from unorthodox giant Eng- 7 lish openers (7)

Propose tenderly in deep 8 resonant tones (10) Exhausted, having trated too much (9) Society high-point, say (5) Wood-nymph cutting advertisement (5) Beloved certain to be in 16

step? (9) DOWN Like a solid youngster in charge? (5) One does not learn much

from Omar, using a transla- 23 tion (9) Indecent language, a trouble 24 in the Cotswolds (4,6) Lover married, unfortunate

Scrooge pulling up short (7 Pass out in the trenches (4) Got up like a climber, post



bly? (5) Natty reps turned out in Welsh resort (9) Pooh's tea is prepared as a perfect example of its type Cabinet-maker settled in Ar-

den, for example (9) Spectacles always for tourist? (10) 18 Striking stranger in street (7) 19 Girl taking part in mean nettennis (7) Sad air, for example, in cathe-21

dral city (5) Wild donkey has no name for being harnessed (5)
Dues paid out when em-

llott doubt for Durban

Cricket

Mark Hott's chances of playing in the third Test could depend on how quickly he recovers from a mild bout of food poisoning. The Essex left-arm pace-man missed yesterday's practice session after complaining of an upset stomach following Monday night's visit to a Japanese restaurant. England expect flott to be back on parade today, and competing for a place against South Africa 24 hours later.

With Darren Gough ruled out by a hamstring injury, llott, Peter Martin and Richard Illingworth would appear to be contesting one place. "It's going to be a last-minute job again," said the manager, Ray Illingworth, when asked about selection plans. The pitch is quite damp and green at present play at any time," he said. but things can change very Gatting, Ramprakash's capbut things can change very

tain at Middlesex, took a long time himself to break through quickly here if the sun shines." Mark Ramprakash was also confined to quarters because of on the international stage, and a heavy cold but, after three failhe will know better than most the disappointment and sense ures in as many Test innings this winter, his place has already been earmarked for John Crawley. Ramprakash is left to heed the advice of the former Eng-land captain Mike Gatting as he contemplates his latest failure to translate prolific County Championship form to the international arena.

In Paarl last Sunday, Ramprakash followed three consecutive Test failures with a third-ball duck during the hastily arranged limited-overs match against Boland. However, the 26-year-old batsman remains sanguine. "I've spoken to Gatt on the phone and he has urged me to stay involved, not lock myself away, and be prepared to

of despair Ramprakash is ex-periencing. "I feel I have let so many people down," said Ram-prakash, who is being dropped from tomorrow's third Test against South Africa in Durban after starting the five-match series with scores of nine, four and nought. The worst thing is that Mike

Atherton and Ray Illingworth showed faith in me by giving me the first two Tests and I didn't repay them. I know there could be some long days ahead but it's important to stay chirpy around the guys who are playing."
With seven front-line batsmen

on tour, and England currently using six, it only requires one injury for Ramprakash to find himself considered for selection.

Du Plessis and Christie to stay

Rugby Union

Morne du Plessis and Kitch Christie, who managed and coached the Springboks to victory in the Rugby World Cup, will retain their posts for next year's New Zealand tour of South Africa.

They had talked of resigning after South Africa's victory in their first World Cup after being banned from the previous two because of apartheid. But the South African Rugby Football Union said yesterday they would stay on for the new Iri-Nation series against Australia and New Zealand, followed by the All Blacks' three-Test tour in August.

Du Plessis, a former Springbok, was credited with maintaining the squad's emotional well-being in the World Cup

amid tremendous pressure from expectant South African fans. He has been dropped as a selector for the Springbok side to affirm his "paternal role" as a confidante and advisor to the

players, a Sarfu statement said. Christie has coached South Africa to 14 straight Test victories, including six in the World Cup that culminated with the 15-12 extra-time defeat of New Zealand. He devised the blanket defensive strategy that neu-tralised the All Black wing Jonah Lomu in the final.

The Sarfu statement said Christie would only commit himself to staying on as coach through the All Black tour.

At the same time, Sarfu said the Transvaal Rugby Union had sought permission to talk to Christie about coaching the

In its statement, Sarfu said it had no objections to Christie assuming the Transvaal position because it would give him firsthand knowledge of provincial players and exposure to Austrafians and New Zealanders competing in next year's Super 12 provincial series.

A former Springbok Ray Mordt, who later played rugby league with Wigan, was ap-pointed as one of two assistant coaches to Christie. Mordt was Christie's original

choice when he accepted the job in August last year, but his rugby league ties caused the In-ternational Rugby Football Board to block his appointment.

The radical changes subsequently introduced by the IRFB have allowed Sarfu to appoint Mordt as coach of the backs and general squad fitness advisor.

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